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AMIGA FORMAT

ISSUE 46 ■ MAY 1993 ■ £3.25

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Discover the secret life of your Amiga:

- Step into the world of Amiga Virtual Reality
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AMIGA FORMAT Cover Disk 46

Charlie Chimp



Three level demo of the GamesMaster AMOS competition winner

Fractal Goblins

Educational demo of Coombe Valley Software's maths aid for youngsters

Atoms
Machine code strategy game. Source code included

Inspiration Anim
The tiny animation that inspired Lemmings

Check V4
Shell utility for serious AmigaDOS script writers

Some programs require 1Mb ● All Amigas ●

Lemmings 2



Can it improve on the original? Find out in our full and definitive review

IDE like a hard drive

Which IDE drive is best for you? How do you fit one? Our expert guide reveals all

VISTA PRO 3 First review of our favourite creativity package
REAL 3D 2 Best ray tracer?
KIDPIX Sound & vision merged
PLUS Morphing explained

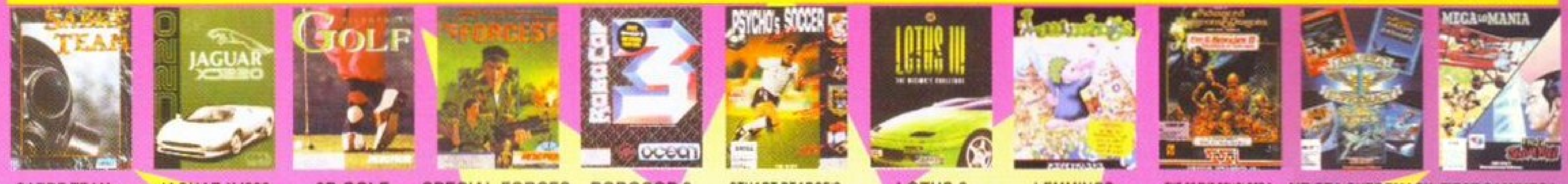
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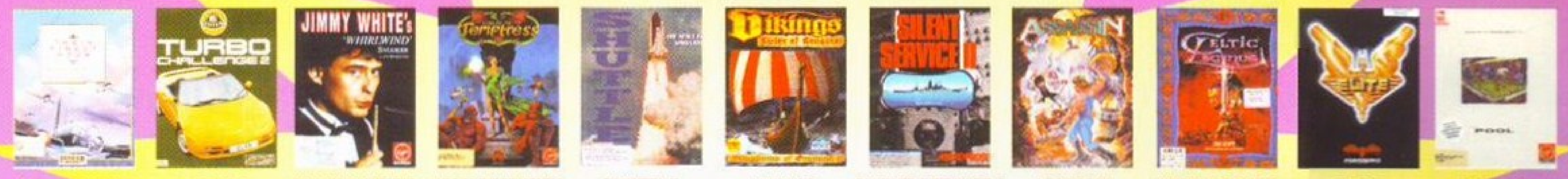
SPECIAL RESERVE TOP TEN AMIGA GAMES OF FEBRUARY/MARCH 1993



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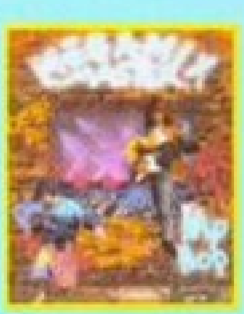


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MAY 1993

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ADVERTISING COMPLAINTS
Contact Yolanda Hughes, Ad Complaints,
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AMIGA FORMAT

30 Monmouth Street
Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW
Telephone 0225 442244
Facsimile 0225 318740

EMAIL ADDRESS
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News

Screenplay 53

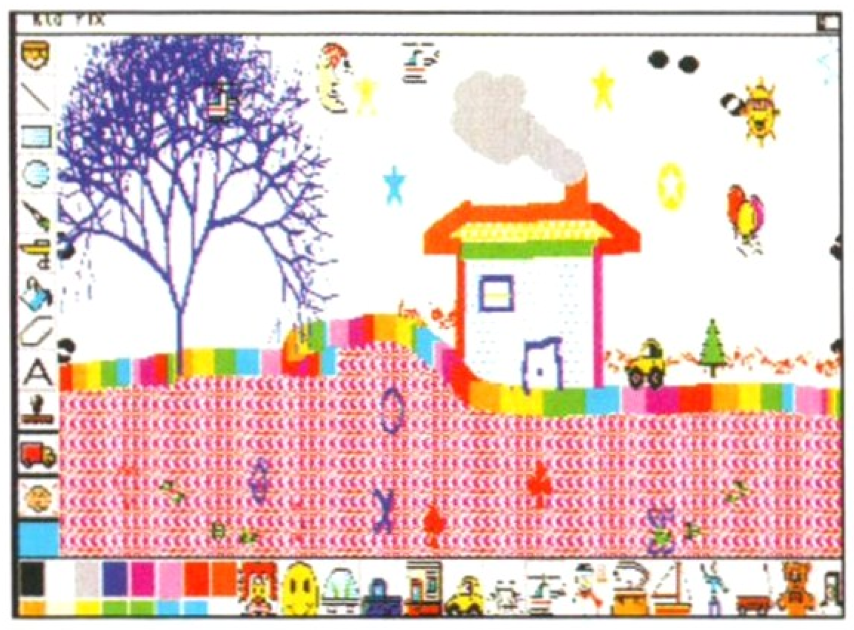
Reviews

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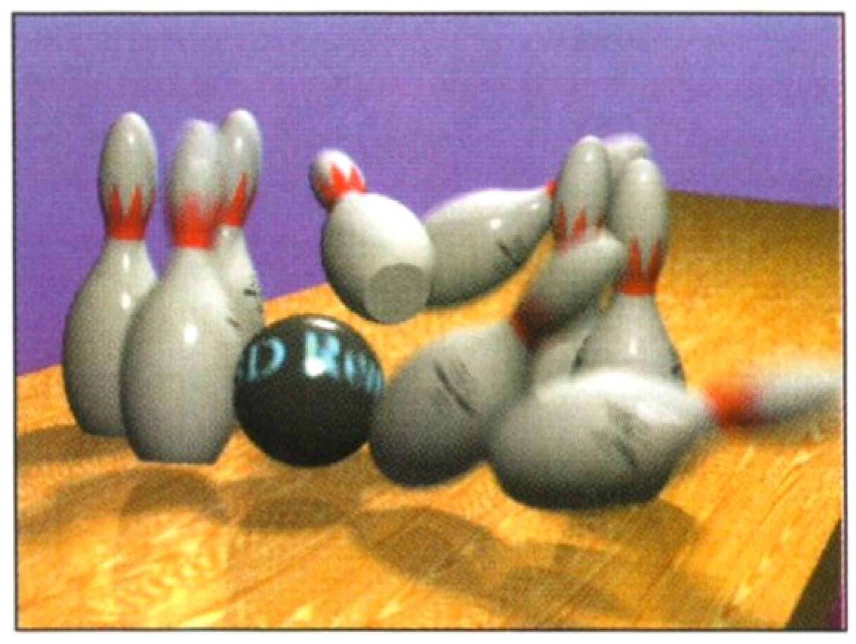
REVIEWED
Pro Page 4

Gold Disk storm back into the DTP arena with the AGA version of their classic *Pro Page* program. We give it a full testing on Page 122



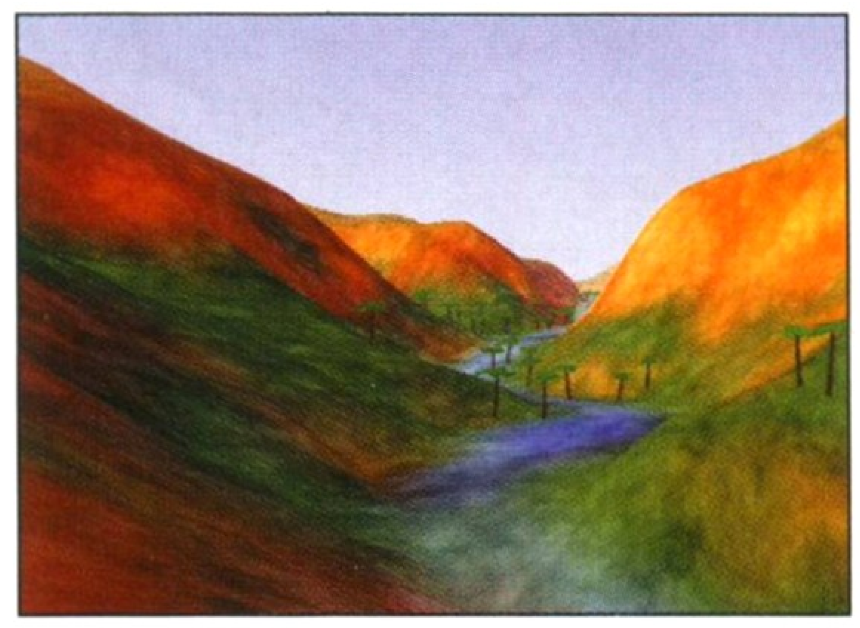
REVIEWED
KidPix

You get the best of both worlds with Kid Pix – Electronic Arts' new children's painting package puts sound with the pictures. We draw some conclusions on Page 126.



REVIEWED
Real 3D 2

The thing that makes the real world so realistic is the blurry bits, motion blur, soft shadows etc. all add to the authenticity. They are all features of the new *Real3D* Page 138.



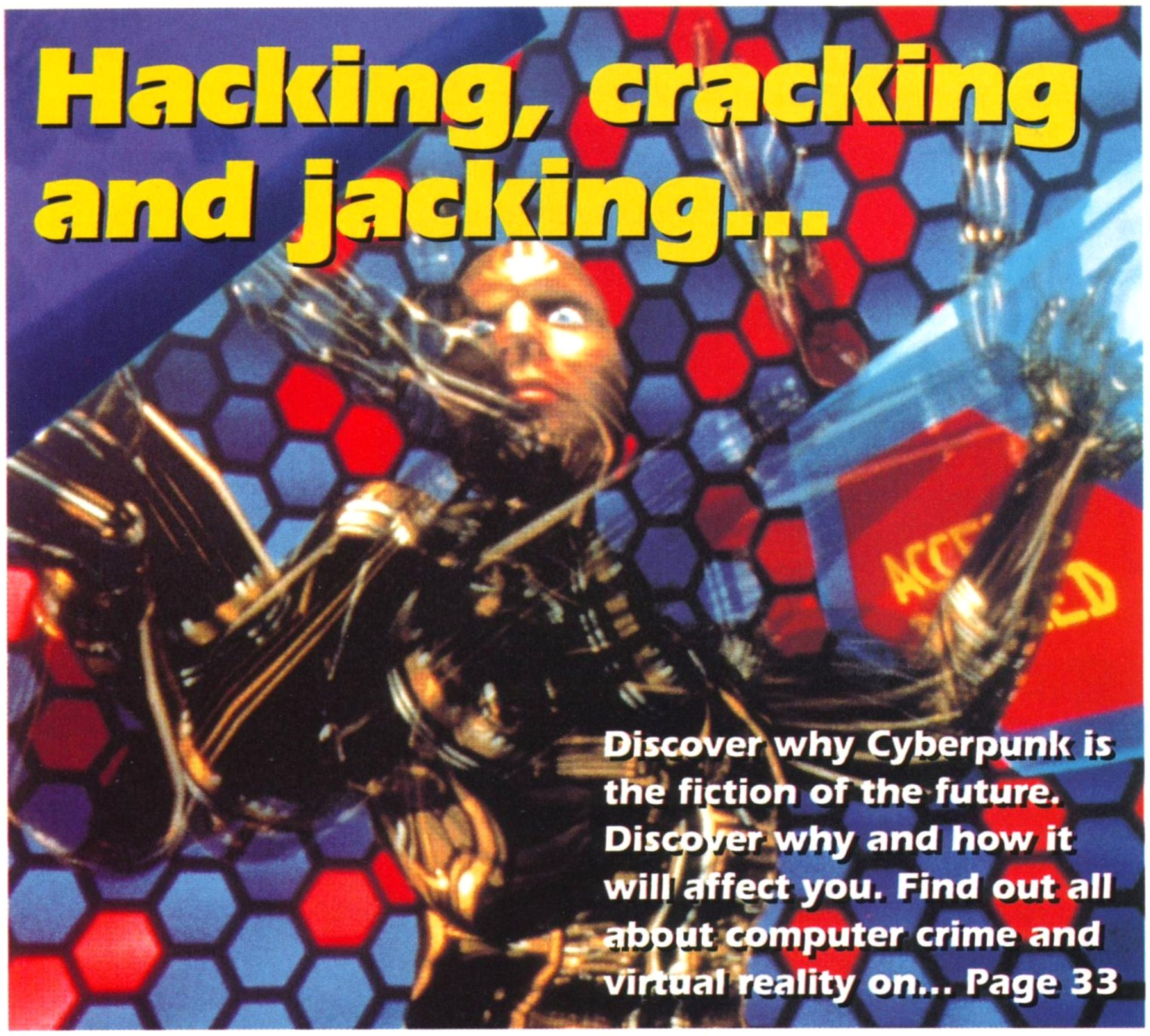
REVIEWED
Vista Pro 3

We've always enjoyed earlier versions of the *Vista* program, but that's no guarantee that we'll like the new one. Find out if we do on Page 146.



IN PD DEMOS:

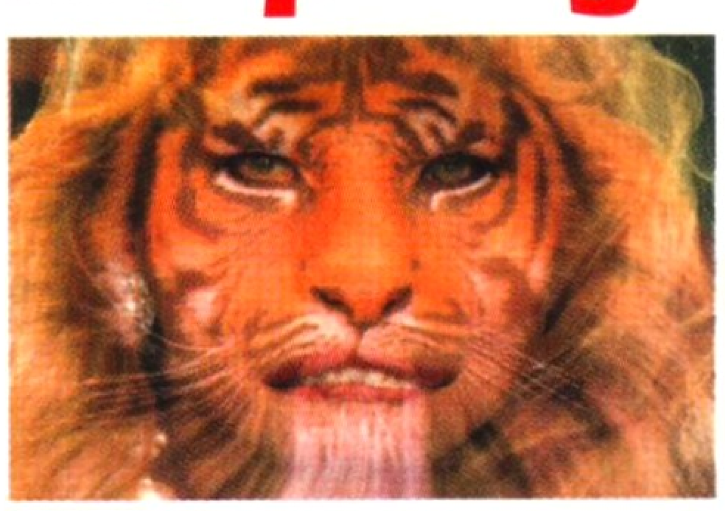
If the best things in life are free (why did Lennon and McCartney need so much money) PD should be very good indeed. Find out if it is on Page 161.



Hacking, cracking and jacking...

Discover why Cyberpunk is the fiction of the future. Discover why and how it will affect you. Find out all about computer crime and virtual reality on... Page 33

Morphing...



It's all the rage at present; you can't turn on the TV without seeing a bag of washing powder turning into some girly with well conditioned hair. Find out how it's done on... PAGE 40

IDE Drives...



Are they God's gift to the Amiga-using public or just a platinum-coated way to invalidate your warranty? And how difficult is it to put one in? All these questions and more are answered on... PAGE 48

Welcome to Amiga Format!

Welcome to another issue of the world's best Amiga mag. This month has seen the release of the new mid-range Amiga that many users, ourselves included, have been eagerly waiting for. Its release was confirmed on the day we went to press, but you'll find a stop press news story about the new machine on Page 16. The press conference for the new machine featured Bars and Pipes Pro2 and Real3D2 quite heavily, and we have reviews of both these fantastic programs inside.

We have a big feature on Cyberpunk, the cultural phenomenon that sprung out of home computers, and continues to affect the uses that Amigas are put to. If you ever wanted to know what hacking and jacking are all about, turn to Page 33 to find out.

We are often asked to put on our reviews whether a piece of software is A1200 compatible or not. Well we work on the assumption that all software is. The machine has been available for six months now, it is essentially the standard Amiga, all new software should be compatible. Rather than have a little icon on all our reviews, we'll make a point of saying in print if a program isn't AGA savvy.



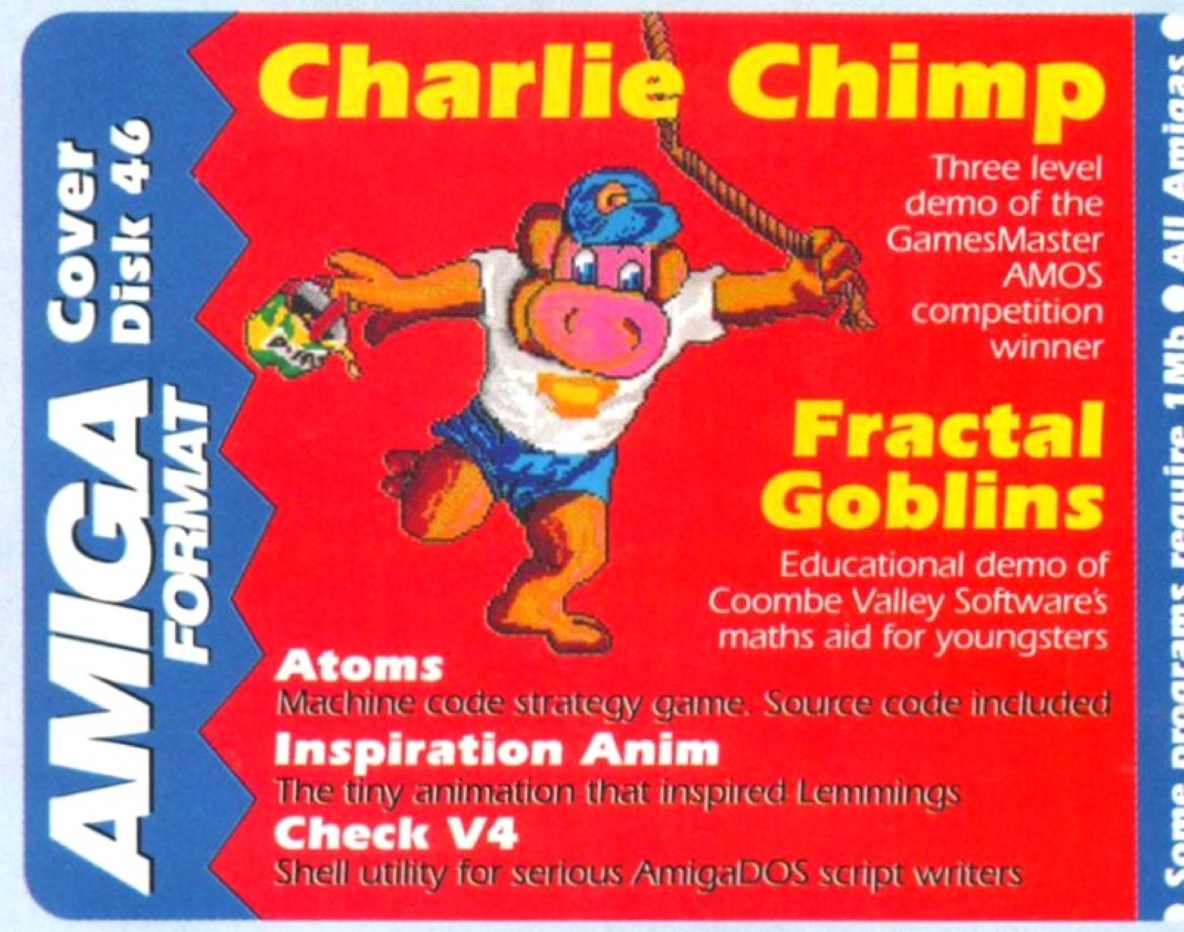
Marcus Dyson, editor

Inside this issue you'll find a review of Lemmings 2, you know it's going to be good, but exactly how good is it? Well Clare didn't get to bed until sunrise for three days, it's that good. Check it out on Page 54.

Elsewhere in the issue you'll find a review of VistaPro 3, the latest release allows anyone with an AGA machine to see those stunning landscapes in full colour.

If you didn't know already (where have you been?) we are having a huge Amiga show at Wembley next month, there's a three page preview in News. Make sure you get along to the show, we'll all be there!

ON THIS MONTH'S COVERDISK

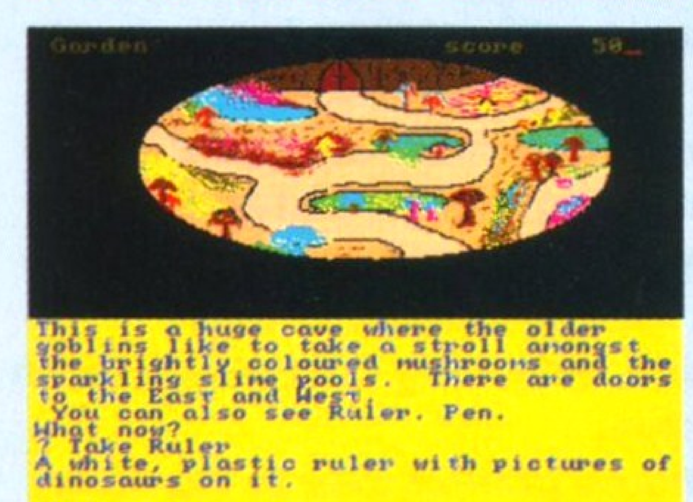


Charlie Chimp



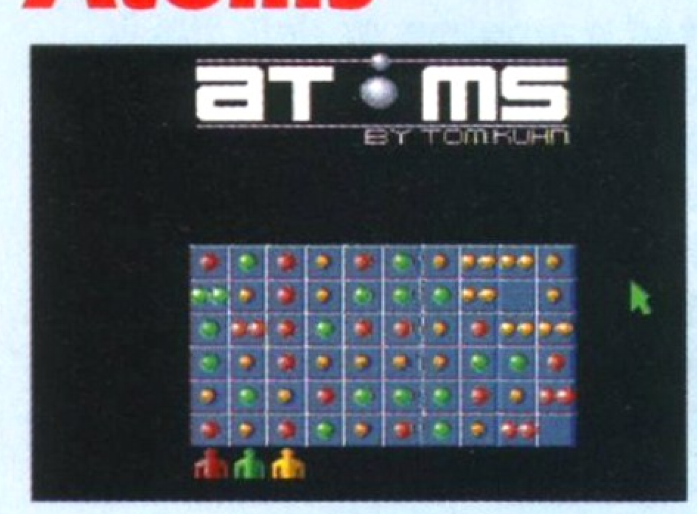
It's time to grab your tennis racket and go platform painting. This is a small, but excellent demo of the GamesMaster AMOS programming competition winner. It also utilises the extra speed of an A1200!

Fraction Goblins



"Not enough educational stuff on the Coverdisk" has been a constant parental cry. Here is a demo of a program that tackles one of the most difficult school subjects – fractions. It's fun, easy, and tests the multiplication of those brain benders.

Atoms



Multiplayer fun that will have you scratching your head for hours on end. As an added bonus, the full Devpac source code has been included on the disk too.

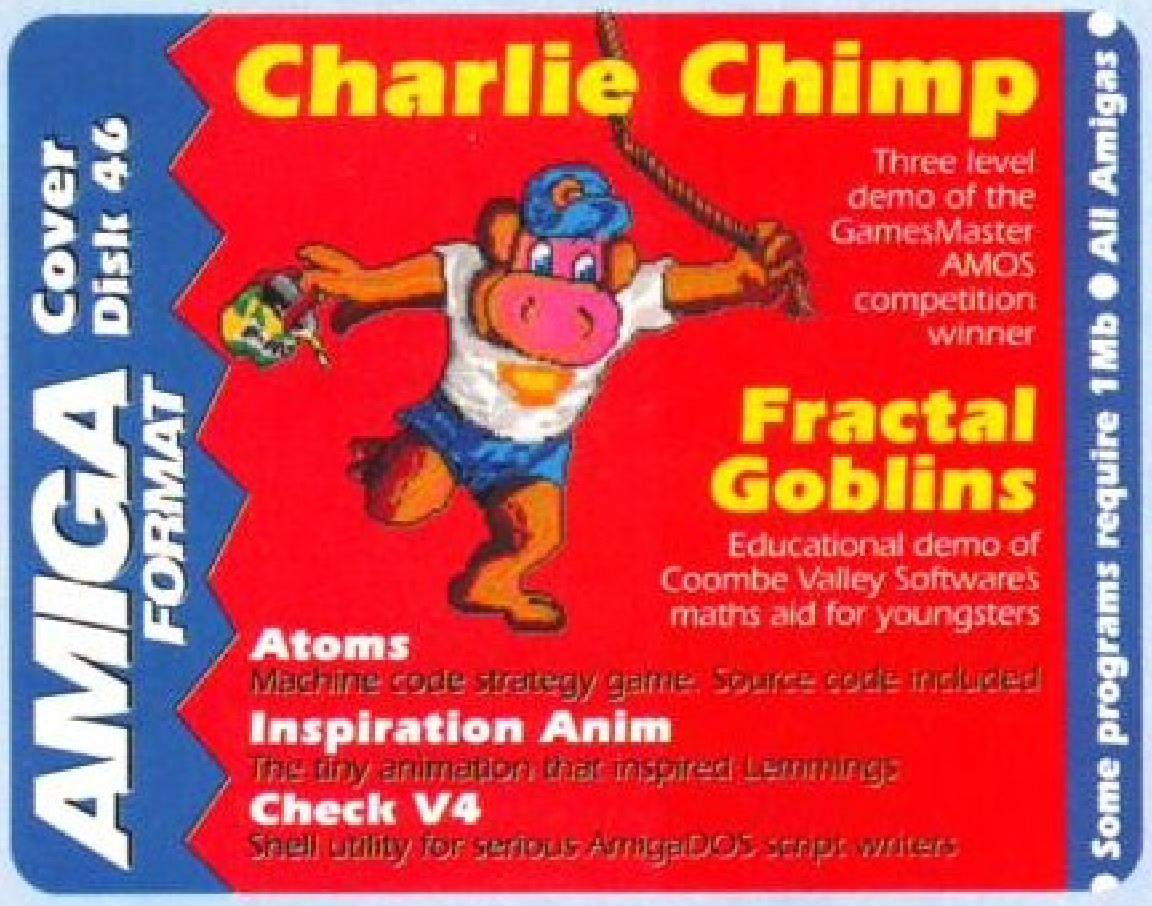
Inspiration Anim

Ever wondered how games get invented? This is the original animation that Dave Jones saw before starting work on Lemmings.

Check v4

This is a tiny, but incredibly useful Shell utility that tests for your Kickstart version.

Full Coverdisk instructions on next page...

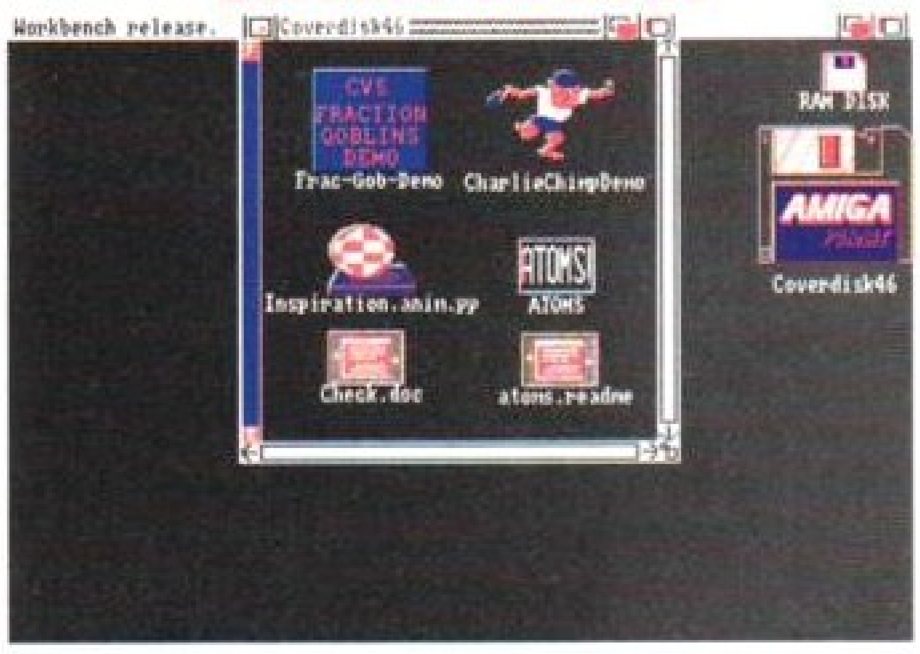


Pat McDonald takes you through Charlie Chimp – the platform-winning game of the GamesMaster AMOS compo. Also on the disk is a multiplayer strategy game, and an educational fractions demo, a utility and the animation that inspired Lemmings… now is that a packed disk, or what?

Charlie Chimp

Brian Bell/Europress PAL only

GETTING STARTED



Here's what you will see when you boot the Coverdisk. Although all programs run from this cut down Workbench, you can't always quit back again.

Right, if you have an AGA machine (A1200 or A4000) hold down both mouse buttons after turning on and select the Enhanced mode from the graphics mode. Everybody else with any model 1Mb Amiga just turn on and pop in your Coverdisk. About 30 seconds to a minute later, you will be left looking at a rather plain Workbench screen, with a big Coverdisk icon on the right-hand side.

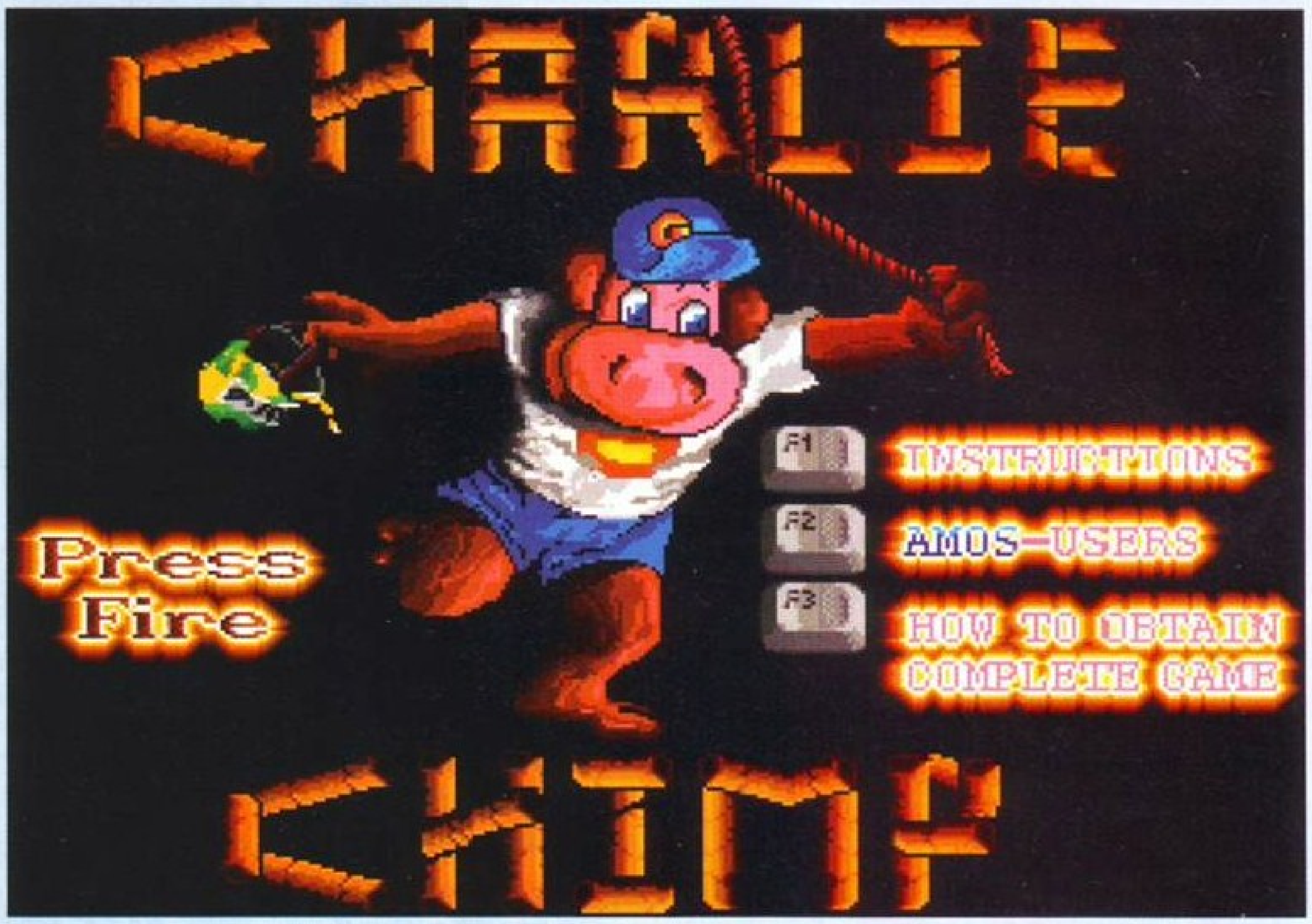
Move the mouse pointer over to the icon, and click twice rapidly with the left mouse button. The above screen will open. To select any of the programs or data files, just point with the mouse and double click on the screen with the left button.

Getting out of a program or data file is slightly more difficult. The demos have no exit – to get out you either have to turn off or reset by holding down the Ctrl key and the two keys either side of the spacebar. *Atoms* is supposed to exit when you press the right mouse button. Sadly on Workbench 2 or later machines it crashes instead. This exit method works for the *Inspiration* anim though.

Getting out of either the Atoms.readme file or the Check.Doc file can either be done by hitting the Esc key or by clicking the left button until the end of the document. All the contents have been tested on all Amigas, but if you have a slightly weird one (2Mb of chip RAM on a 1.3 machine, or all four floppy drives) you may have to disconnect your expansions to get the Coverdisk to work.

Wait, there's more!

Two important files are not immediately obvious. These are the complete assembly source code for *Atoms* (handy if you followed the Bullfrog *Devpac* machine code tutorials) and also the *Check* program. To copy these programs, some knowledge of the Shell is useful.



***Charlie Chimp* probably won because of its presentation. Press fire to play, or one of the labelled function keys (F1-F3) for the relevant information. Games can be fast or pretty, but unless it's easy to get into, people won't like it.**

THIS IS THE winning entry of the *GamesMaster AMOS* programming competition. Well, almost - it's only a three level demo of the full 30 level shareware game. If you like it and want the full version, instructions on where to send the £5 shareware fee are built into the game.

What? You don't get the whole game on the Coverdisk? The reason is the size - the full game almost completely fills a disk. The second prize winner, another platform game called *Super Blue Kid* by Frazer Ashworth, was of a similar size. The third prize winner, a rather spiffy shoot-em-up called *Stellar Escape* (by Antonio Alberto Ruiz and his friends) was four disks!

So you only get a taste of the full game, just like 'proper, commercial' software. If anyone out there in the real world can define any differences that aren't cosmetic between shareware and commercial boxed software, then you're smarter than I am.

Anyway, *Charlie Chimp* is a platform game, and it's fairly simple in most respects. Charlie's task is to repaint all the platforms on the screen, and he must do it three times for each level. To stop him doing this there are plenty of nasties roving around. Fortunately



***Stellar Empire* features an extra wide NTSC screen. If you move towards the edge, it scrolls sideways too – clever!**



Beautiful graphics were the strong point of *Super Blue Kid*, but where are the monsters? Excellent fun though.

FRACTION GOBLINS DEMO

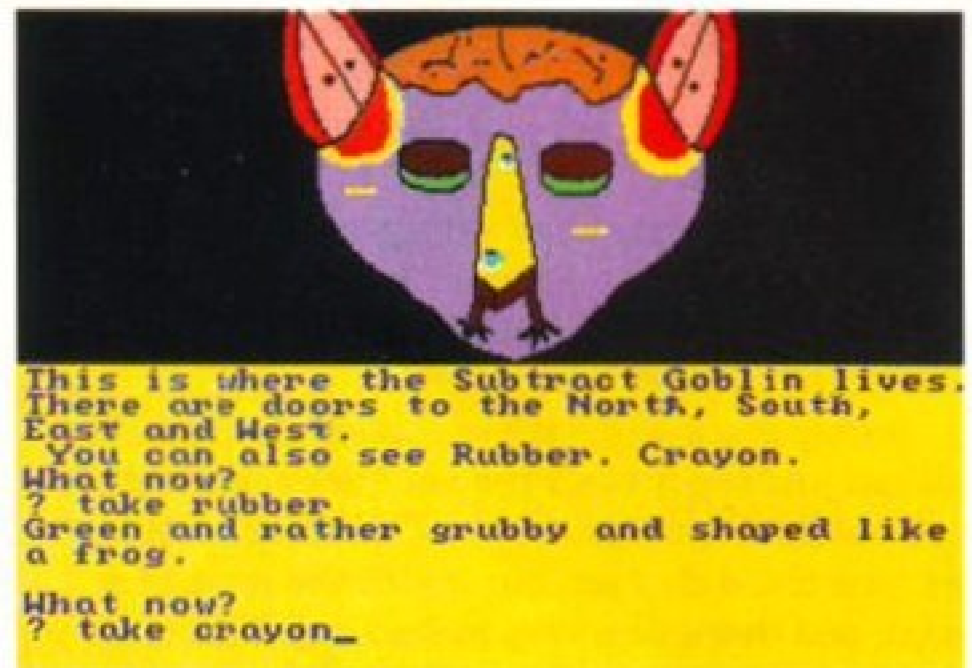
Coombe Valley Software PAL/NTSC

Here's a quite substantial demo of an educational program. It's aimed to help children who are having difficulty with that horrible maths subject, fractions. And helping you out is a tribe of goblins - hence the title.

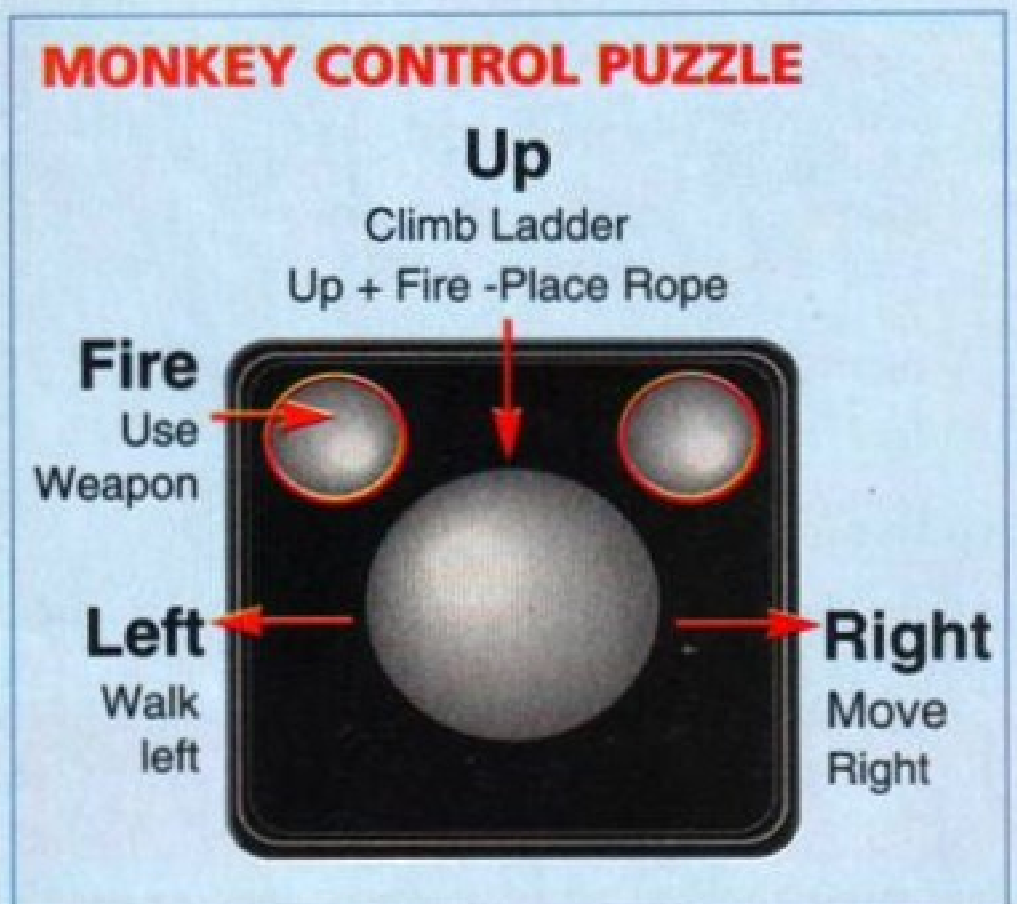
The basic idea is that, after a quick break at the local goblin playroom, you return to discover that your pencil case has been ransacked. You have to move around the maze of rooms, finding a pen here, ruler there and so on, until your pencil case collection is complete.

Playing it is not too difficult - maybe it could have been easier by using the mouse. To move north, south, east or west, simply type n, s, e or w followed by the return key. Pick things up by typing 'Take object', have a description retold with 'Look', and find out what you are carrying with 'Inventory'. Have fun, and remember - the full program tests on all four fraction areas

By the way, my (Pat McDonald's) personal apologies to Coombe Valley Software for getting the name wrong. The above is correct, the Coverdisk label is wrong.



Every time you pick up an object in the demo, you get a short description of what it looks like.



for you, most of them are fairly stupid and don't home in on you.

You can't jump over them - in fact you can't jump at all - but if you press fire then you can whack them into the edge of the screen. If you see a boxing glove, give it a whack and it'll bash all the nasties level with you on-screen.

Also available to you is a rope, and this comes in handy when a platform doesn't have a ladder going up to it. But you only get one of these, so make sure you don't waste it in the wrong place. Also, sometimes you have to take it down again in order to use it in a different place on the same screen.

To paint the platforms, just run over them and they'll change colour. Make sure that when you finish one painting run, you start on the next coat where the old one ended - it can be very frustrating to run around not putting any paint down.

A1200 owners will be pleased that the game takes account of the extra power in their machines, and is a lot better as a result. On older Amigas, it's still good, but you haven't quite got the slickness.

Brian Bell, the author, is thinking about doing an A1200-only version, as well as a follow up - but this depends on whether or not many people support him with a shareware contribution.

People who use *AMOS* will be pleased that Brian has left Ashley Cunningham's graphics .abk files on the disk where you can get at them. They are used in the *AMOS* tutorial this month, on Page 109. He will also supply the complete AMOS source code if you send him £10.

Personally, I don't think there's a huge amount of mileage in this sort of *AMOS* game. Platform games need the *maximum* speed possible to get the maximum graphics moving on screen at once. *AMOS* is a good programming language, but it isn't ideal for this. But *Charlie Chimp* shows what you can do with a bit of thought and a lot of effort.

ATOMS

Tom Kuhn ■ PAL/NTSCS

ST Version By B Hewlett

This multiplayer-only game seems rather tame at first. Before you can start start it, click on the number of players who want to play, and the game's board will appear. If your mouse pointer is corrupted, that's because you're using an AGA machine without setting the enhanced mode - the 'Getting started' box at the bottom left of the opposite page details this.

Playing the game is simple in theory. All you do is take turns putting differently coloured atoms on to the board. Each player has a separate colour for their atoms. You can put atoms on top of atoms if they are of the same colour, but this is where the gameplay comes in.

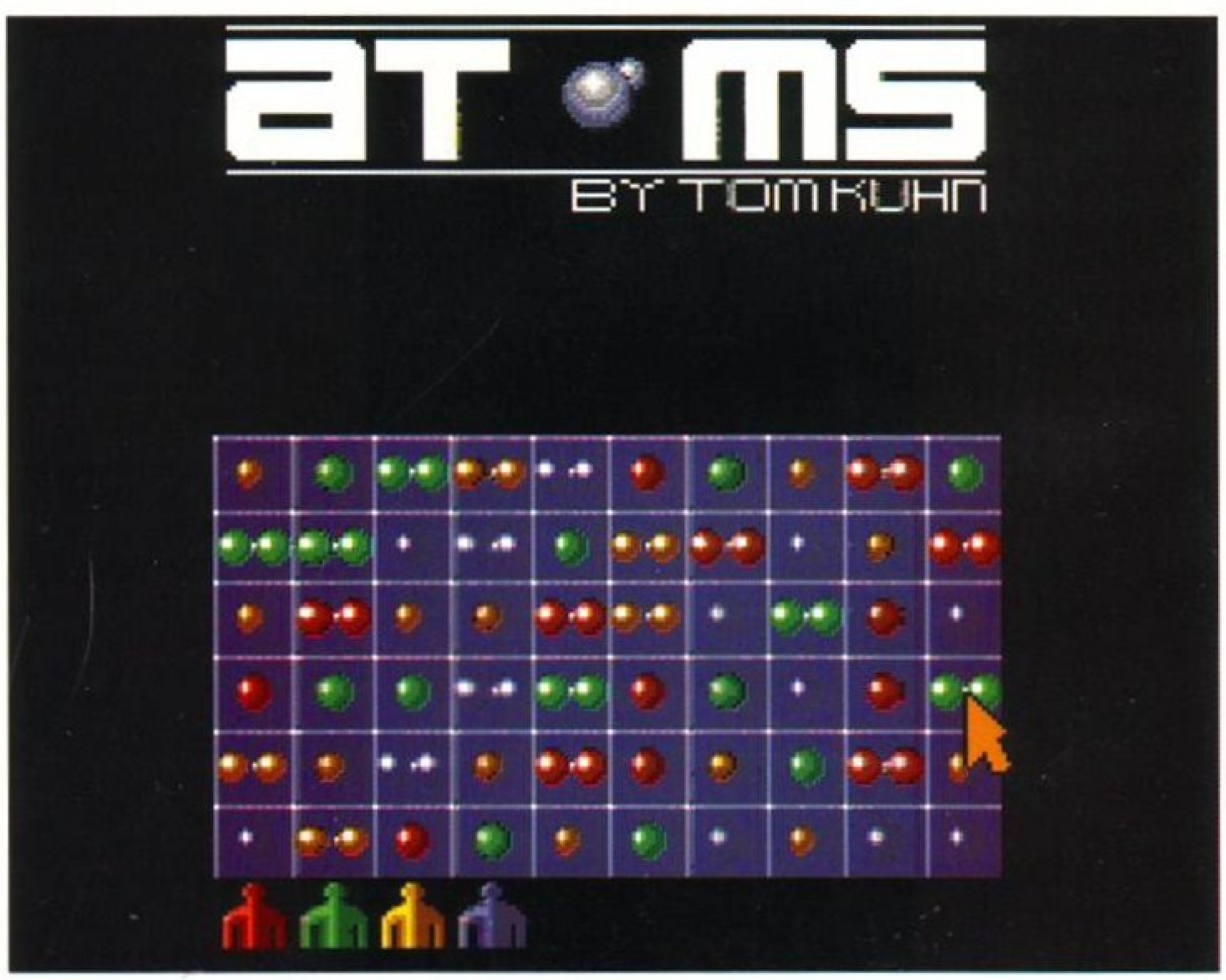
In the middle of the board, up to three atoms can be placed without causing problems. Around the edges, two atoms can cohabit the same space without a hitch. At the corners you can only place one atom. If you put another atom beyond these limits, the space explodes, blowing atoms onto the surrounding spaces and changing the colours of enemy atoms.

The winner is the player whose atoms cover the entire board. As explosions occur, so do chain reactions where excess atoms cause further explosions. Towards the end of the game, you can literally change the whole board by putting on one atom!

***Atoms* is not an original game - the original was done on the Atari ST by B Hewlett. However, Tom Kuhn has done a good job on the conversion. Machine code programmers can find the *Devpac* source code on the Coverdisk, saved under the name Atoms.S.**

For those who check out the directory on the Coverdisk, you'll notice that the *Atoms* program is much smaller than the source code (25K as opposed to 35K). There's a very simple reason for this - the program has been crunched with PowerPacker Professional V4. Uncrunched, the program is about 100K long.

A large part of this is the Noisetracker music module, which is included into the program right at the end of the Assembly source code listing. So if you've been looking for an example of includ-



Here's a game that's heading towards the interesting stage. Any minute now, chain reactions will start running all over the board, completely altering it from one go to the next. Persevere with this game – it's worth it.

CHECK V4

Chris Brown ■ All Amigas

This is a dead handy Shell utility, and it's useful for startup script files. It's purpose is to find out exactly what version of Kickstart is in use at a particular moment.

It may seem like a trivial exercise – after all, you can just see if the Version or Why commands are available, for Kickstart 2 or 3 respectively. Yes, you could do that, but not at the start of a script, and there's no way to find out if someone is using future versions of Kickstart version 4?).

Check works by generating an error code, which the Amiga code can recognise with an If Warn statement. To see if a particular version of Kickstart is in use, you have to check for that version number. These version numbers are the compilation number – because the code is compiled into machine code at different stages, this number actually increases.

So long as Commodore keep the compilation numbers at the same place, Check should work for all future versions of Kickstart (like the prototype version 4).

What's the point? Well, certain programs in the C directory, like *Install*, do not work on different Kickstarts.

Inspiration.anim

Mike Dailly/Gary Timmons
PAL/NTSC



The proto Lemms in loop. Notice the original Mohican orange hair, redone later in green.

Ever wondered how *Lemmings* got invented? Well, one lunchbreak in September 1989, Mike Daily did this little animation. He wanted to see just how small you could make a character that was as well animated as possible.

Gary Timmon did a couple of tweaks, and somehow or other Dave Jones (the gaffer of DMA Design) saw the potential of the graphics as a game. About 17 months later, *Lemmings* the game was launched on an unsuspecting world that's never quite got over them.

Disk not working?

We duplicate about 180,000 disks every month. Out of all those, obviously a few will be faulty. If the disk or any of the programs will not load or run properly, don't panic!

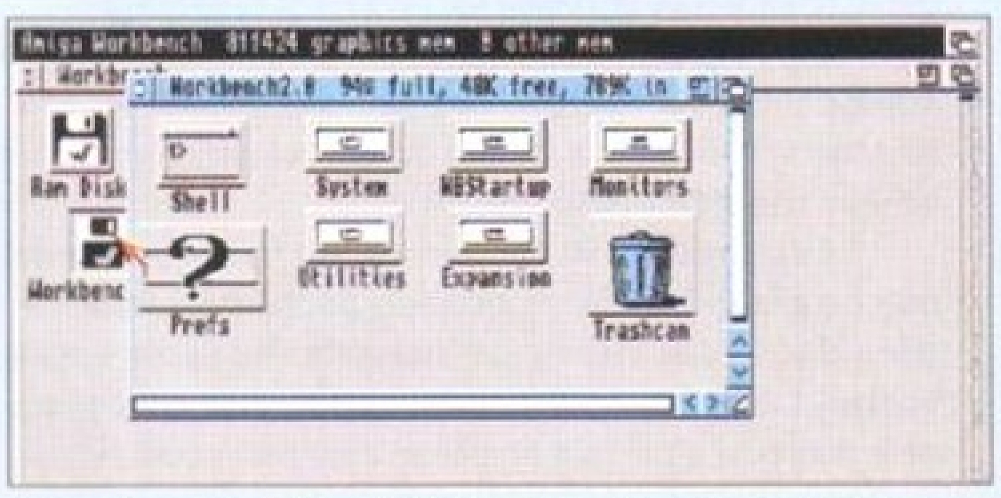
Users of machines that precede Workbench 2 could try using *DiskDoctor*, refer to your manual for more details. Unfortunately *DiskDoctor* is not included with Workbench 2 or 3.

If your Coverdisk is indeed faulty, you should send it back INCLUDING A STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for a free replacement within one month of the cover date to:

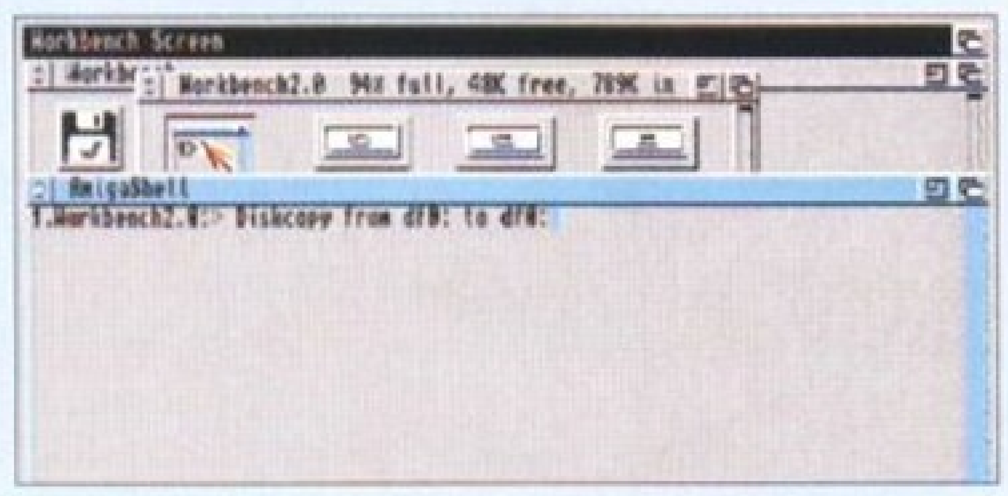
Amiga Format May Disk
Disk Copy Labs Ltd
Units 2&3
Omega Technical Centre
Drayton Fields
Daventry
Northants
NN11 5RT

Protect your Coverdisk

There are two ways of making a copy of your disk, and this is the easy one. Don't be put off by the fact that you need to use the Shell or CLI: it's actually a lot easier than you might think.



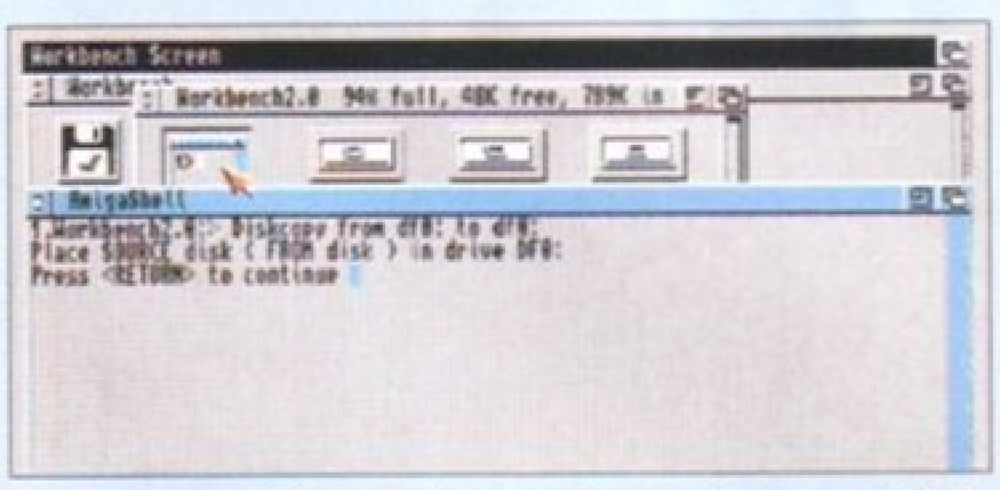
1 Load your Workbench disk. Open the disk, find the icon that says Shell or CLI and double-click on it.



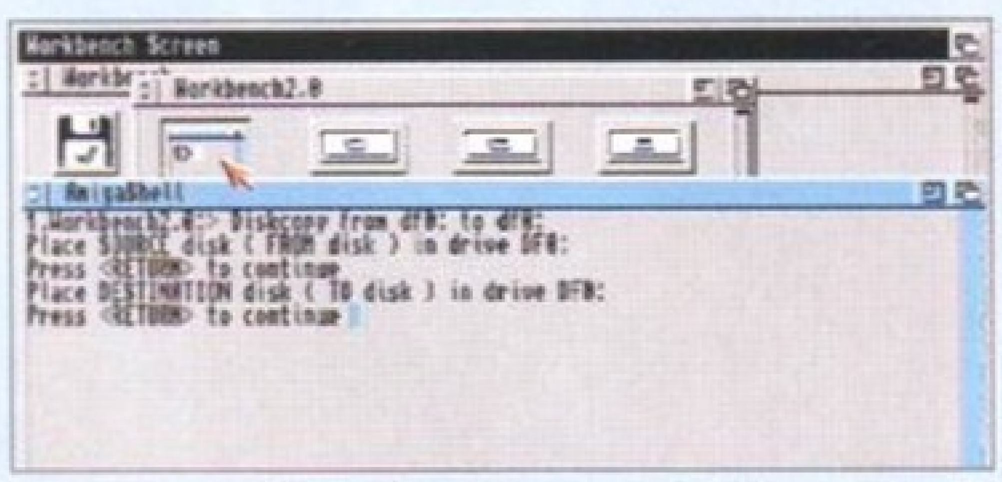
2 When the Shell window appears and the drive light is out, type in (0 is zero, not the letter O):

`Diskcopy from DF0: to DF0:`

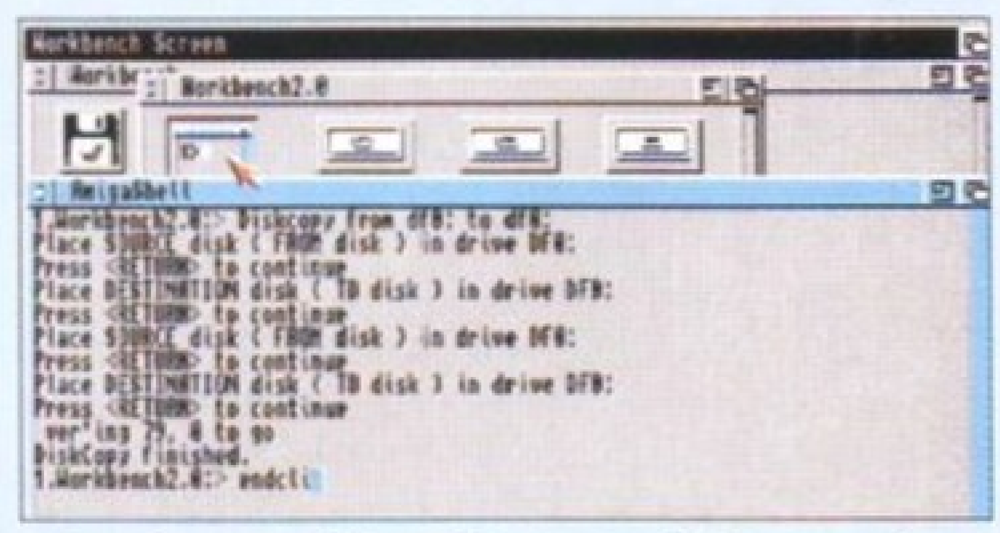
and press the Return key. 0 is zero, not the letter "O"!



3. The Amiga will now ask you to insert the 'source' disk. It means the disk you want to copy, so put the Coverdisk in the drive and press the Return key.



4. Wait for a while and it will read all the information off the Coverdisk, telling you how far it has got. Then it will ask you to insert the 'Destination' disk. Put the disk you want to copy your Coverdisk on to in the drive and press the Return key. Note that the disk does not need to be formatted already.



5. Put the source disk and destination disk in a couple more times when the Amiga asks for them. When it says "Diskcopy Finished" just type in:

`endcli`

to get out of the Shell or CLI. You may have to put the Workbench disk in again. Now your copy is ready!

DISK PROBLEMS?

If you have a problem with the disk – and you're sure the disk is in full working order – then you may need a little help. If you ring us on any Tuesday, and ask to speak to Pat McDonald, he will do his best to help you. Please understand, giving this sort of advice is time-consuming and we are very busy people, so only call if you really have to and do be considerate if we can't talk to you just then. If the problem is particularly complex it is better to send it to us in written detail. It will then be dealt with in the Workbench pages of the magazine.

BE CAREFUL!

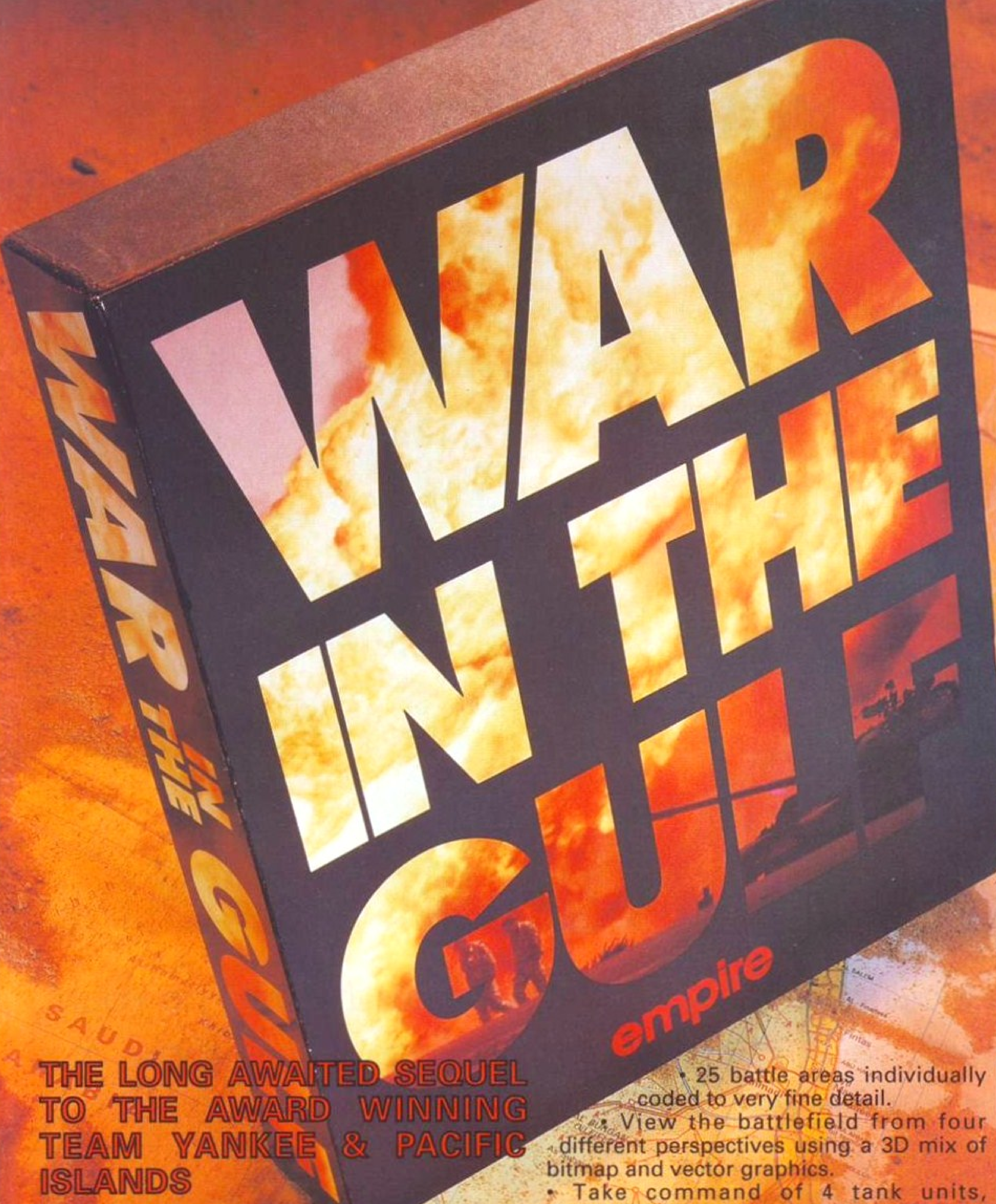
We have done our best to check that all of the programs on the ***Amiga Format*** Coverdisk are simple to use and have no viruses. We cannot usually answer complex telephone queries on the software (see the Disk Problems? box) and we do not accept liability for any consequences of using the numerous programs that are on the disk.

COPYRIGHT

Unless it is specifically stated, the programs on the Coverdisks are not in the Public Domain and the copyright remains with the copyright-holder of the program.

Because some of the programs on the Coverdisks are not PD, selling or distributing them without the copyright-holder's specific permission is against the law.

TAKE COMMAND



THE LONG AWAITED SEQUEL TO THE AWARD WINNING TEAM YANKEE & PACIFIC ISLANDS

1995...The Iraqi Republican Guard have overrun the oilfields of Northern Kuwait. War in the Gulf follows the fortunes of a crack unit of M1 tanks as the action unfolds.

- 25 battle areas individually coded to very fine detail.
- View the battlefield from four different perspectives using a 3D mix of bitmap and vector graphics.
- Take command of 4 tank units, simultaneously controlling 16 different vehicles through the unique split screen control system.
- Call upon the latest military technology including; laser-range finders, Infra-red imaging, TOW, HEAT and SABOT missiles.
- Liberate Kuwaiti villages, capture oilwells and disrupt desert supply lines.
- Lay minefields and order up artillery barrages.











REALISTIC...GRIPPING...

THE ULTIMATE BATTLEFIELD SIMULATION

AVAILABLE FOR IBM PC, AMIGA & ATARI ST

empire SOFTWARE

Take a trip to Wembley between the 7th and 9th May, and you could end up here...



Would you like to travel to the World of Commodore Exhibition in Sydney Australia?

Would you like to compete against the youth of the world for the title "World Real Genius"?

Would you like the chance to win an Amiga 4000 plus software?

Enter Commodore's Real Genius competition at the *Amiga Format* Live show at Wembley in May and all these prizes could be yours!

The Real Genius Competition is open to anyone under the age of 18. First prize is an all expenses paid trip to Sydney, Australia. Second prize is an A1200 from Commodore UK, and the third prize winner will receive a Miracle keyboard tutor courtesy of Mindscape.

COME ALONG TO THE SHOW AND SEE THE AMIGA AT ITS BEST!

Commodore are looking for the World Real Genius. It could be you! The British heats will be held at the Amiga Format Live show at Wembley Exhibition Centre between May 7th and 9th 1993.

Come to the show, enter the competition and you could find yourself winging your way to Sydney, Australia in a Quantas Jumbo jet to compete against the rest of the world for an Amiga 4000.

AMIGA FORMAT Live '93

Commodore

Commodore Business Machines • Commodore House • The Switchback • Gardener Road • Maidenhead • Berks • SL6 7XA

BLUE, BLUE, 'LECTRIC BLUE!

OR... JUST WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SOUND & VISION AREA?

At the show there will be a constant running tutorial on how to produce videos using your Amiga. This stand is named, rather catchily, Sound and Vision, so look out for it. Here's a brief run down on what will be occurring on the stand.

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS

Maff Evans, ex-*Amiga Format* bod and now reviews Editor of Future Music shows you how to get sounds into your Amiga via a sampler. He then demonstrates how to knock them into a tune.

ANIMATION AND SPECIAL EFFECTS

Graphics correspondent Brian Larkman displays the fabulous graphics capabilities of the Amiga using *DPaint IV*, *Imagine*, *Image FX* and the fabulous Opalvision 24-bit card.

TITLING AND GENLOCKS

Video pro', Gary Whitely explains this often perplexing area of Amiga useage.

VIDEO EDITING

AF's tech' supremo, Pat McDonald, shows you how to create a complete video production using your Amiga, some patience, and a little know-how.

AMIGA FORMAT Live '93

WEMBLEY EXHIBITION CENTRE
7 - 9 MAY 1993

The *Amiga Format* Live '93 show is going to be the biggest, most beneficial, grandest and most fun Amiga experience of the year... no mistake.

We go to the Show

May 7-9 are the dates heralding the greatest Amiga-only event ever, and we're hosting it. You're all welcome to come along, and for the next three pages, Amiga Format's editor, **Marcus Dyson**, is your show guide ...

AMIGA FORMAT LIVE is going to be the greatest Amiga event of the year. From 7-to-9 May, Wembley Exhibition Centre is going to be packed to the rafters with Amiga owners and enthusiasts. All the latest hardware and software will also be there for you to look at, play with and buy.

Over the next three pages we'll take a look at what you can expect to see at the prestigious *Amiga Format* Live Show. Obviously there'll be lots of software and hardware dealers, and companies eager to display their products. And Simply by flipping this page you'll get a sneak preview of some of the great items, special Show prices, and wondrous new things they'll have on show. And if that wasn't enough for you, we the *Amiga Format* team will be there too, giving talks and carrying out questions and answer sessions to help solve your Amiga queries and problems.

As usual, anyone who buys a drink for any staff member of the perennially gasping *Amiga Format* team will get there name printed in the magazine, it's the cheapest way to international stardom, because we are read the world over, and over and over. We'll also be available for a chat if you can't make it to one of the Q&A sessions.

Oh Wemb-el-ee! Oh Wemb-el-ee! We are the famous *Amiga Format* and we're off to Wemb-el-ee! The Exhibition Centre that is, on May 7-9. Be there and have fun.





Remember *Flights of Fantasy*? Well you're an old Amiga hand then. If you don't recall this pack, then come to the Show and ask someone who does, there'll be loads more advice, and this flight simulator to try too.

DEAD SOUND MATES!

Make a point to look out for Sound and Vision area, hosted by our very own Pat MacDonald. This area is going to try and show you the full creative potential of your Amiga by putting together a video production from absolute and utter scratch.

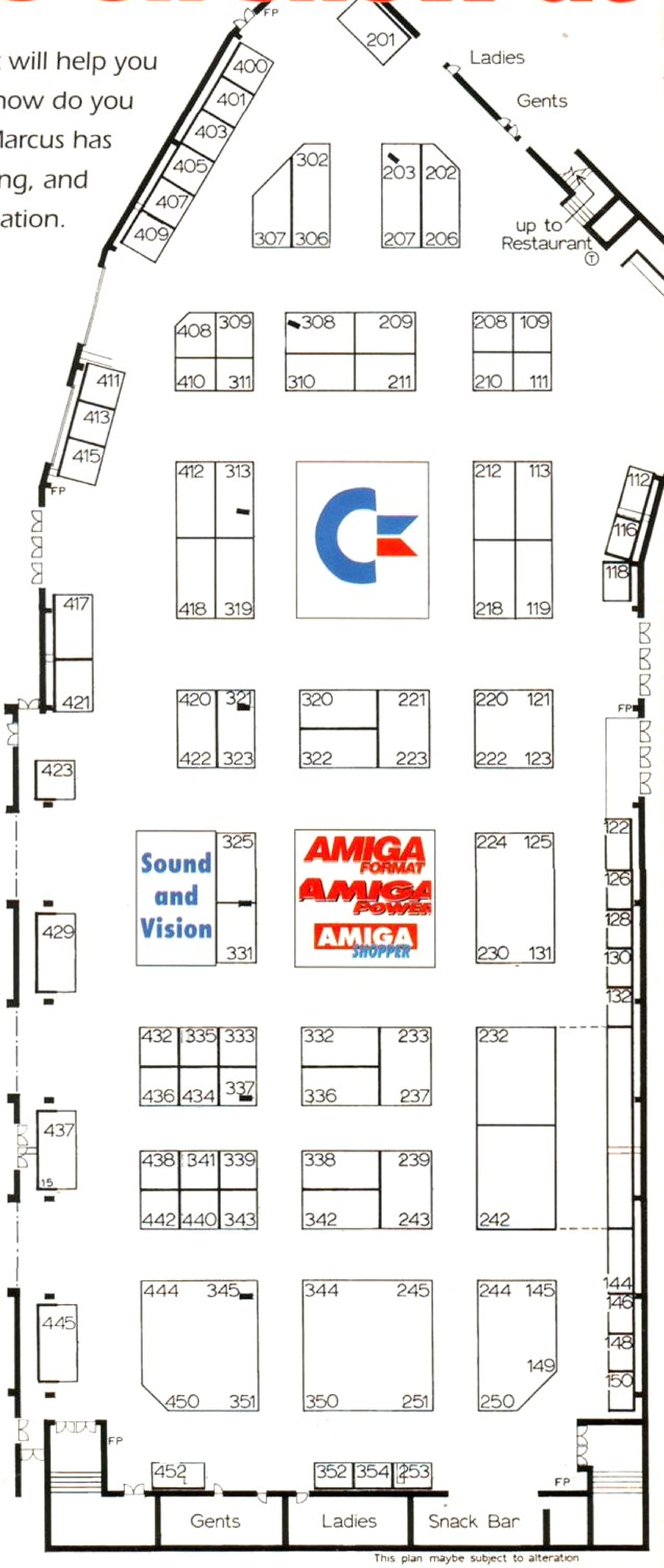
All the music, editing, video effects, genlocking and animation you'll need to know about will be done on the Amiga, and experts will demonstrate how to do every stage. You'll be a Beadle to miss it.

Then, sponsored by our daughter magazine, there's the *Amiga Power* games arcade: a whole room full of Amigas running the latest in entertainment software from the UK's best games companies... AND they're all on free play. Check out the new releases before you buy them, and have a bag-load of fun at the same time. There'll be Virtual Reality of course, and Laser Force, a game played in a huge inflatable environment. Just wait till you've tried it, it's great. Last year at the Future Entertainment Show the *AF* team had to be dragged out!

Now turn the page for the full run-down...

What's on show at

Here's a floorplan of the Show, it will help you find the stands you want to visit. But how do you know which stands you want to see? Easy, Marcus has written a bit about what each company will be showing, and next to it you'll discover the stand number and its location.



16/32 PDL 250
PD software is the order of the day on the 16/32 stand, then again they are a PD library after all.

ADVENTURESOFT 128
This stand will be shifting games, bucket-loads of them, both new and back-catalogue titles. So if there's a game you're particularly after, give 'em a try!

ALFADATA 206
AlfaData will have a large number of lovely Amiga accessories and peripherals for your perusal.

ASHCOM 122
Ashcom have long been producing quality peripherals for the Amiga, and they'll have a good many of them at the show.

BARE NECESSITIES 436
As the name suggests, Bare Necessities have those Amiga accessories that you can't do without.

BURGESS VIDEO 429
If you're after a video to instruct you with the use of *DPaint*, or to tell you how to do desktop video with your Amiga, then this is the stand to head for. Burgess will be selling a full range of tutorial videos to help you get the most out of your Amiga.

CARE ELECTRONICS 116
Are you getting dull and lifeless printouts from your colour printer? If so, take a look at Care Electronics' *Flexidump* utility. This package could well improve your printouts beyond belief. This is also the stand for colour printer refills.

COMMODORE 213
They make the Amiga, and it wouldn't be much of a show without them, but what will the 'Big C' have on their stand? Well there'll be Amigas to start with, and lots of them too. Commodore will also have the new A4000/030 on show, and will be concentrating on the high-end applications (If you want to see games then visit the *Amiga Power* arcade). Expect to see A4000s running *Real 3D, Caligari, AdPro/Morph Plus* and the Miracle keyboard tutor.

COMMODORE'S REAL GENIUS COMP
This is the stand where you could win yourself a trip to Australia. Commodore are running a competition to discover the 'World Real Genius', and these are the UK heats. The winner will travel to the World of Commodore Show in Sydney to compete for an Amiga 4000. Runners up will win an A1200 for second place and a Miracle keyboard tutor for third.

Entrants must be under the age of 18 and free to travel to Australia accompanied by **AF** *editor Marcus Dyson, in the first week of July 1993.*

CONNECT INTERNATIONAL 230/244
If business and educational software are what you require, Connect will have tons of it, much at special show prices. They'll have leisure software aplenty too!

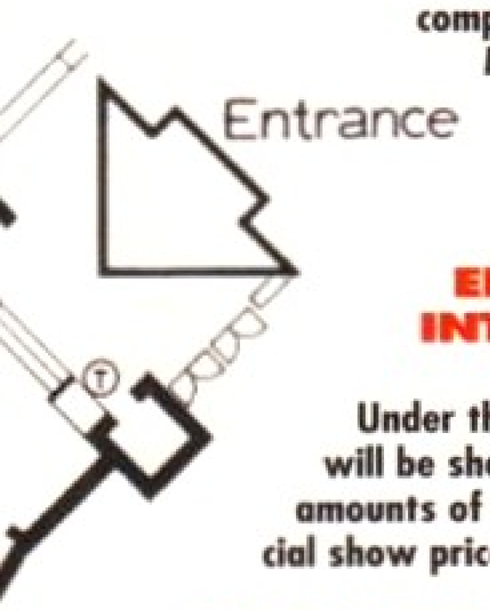
DIGITA 221
The publishers of *Format Gold*-winning word publisher *Wordworth* will have several new products on display. Most importantly they will be showing *Wordworth 2* AGA. There will be two new *Wordworth* outline font packs on show and a clip-art collection. Digita will also be unveiling a package to encourage new users to take up the *Wordworth* platform.

DMI PLC 345
Formerly known as HB Marketing, DMI now comprise that company and the old DMI. Expect to see a glittering array of software on this stand. *Vista Professional* is just one of the products they distribute.



Commodore's wondrous stand will be over-laden with Amigas of all shapes and sizes, from the A600 all the way up to the sparkly new A4000-30 (see page 16 for details).

the Show



ELECTRONIC ARTS 325
On show will be *Deluxe Paint IV*, which is still being updated. New versions have a direct link to *AdPro* as well as pressure-sensitivity for use with drawing tablets. EA will also be showing the new version of the *Deluxe Music Construction Kit*. Added features include AGA compatibility, ARexx and MIDI support. See and hear it on the Sound and Vision stand.

ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL 233
Under the Softstore name, EI will be showing and selling vast amounts of games software at special show prices.

FIRST COMPUTER CENTRE 332
Innovative hardware will be on display at this stand. High density external drives, A1200 real-time clocks, Microbotics MBX1200 expansions and Supra modems are just some of the goodies on show.

AMIGA FORMAT 225
Here's where you get to meet and chuck questions at the staff of your favourite Amiga magazine.

GASTEINER 323
The new budget Gasteiner opto-mechanical mouse will be making it's world debut at the Show, as will a new hard drive and hand-held scanner.

GREMLIN GA1
The makers of *Zool* will be displaying their latest and greatest games in the *Amiga Power* arcade. Their new game *Litil Divil* will be making its debut.

GVP 322
Great Valley Products are the world's largest producer of Amiga peripherals, and that's for one reason, they make the best. Get along to their stand and you'll see the best in hard drives, accelerators, RAM expansions, genlocks and more.

HARPERS COMPUTERS 146
Computer accessories such as mouse mats, disk boxes and printers will be order of the day on Harpers' stand. If you need 'em, they've got 'em!

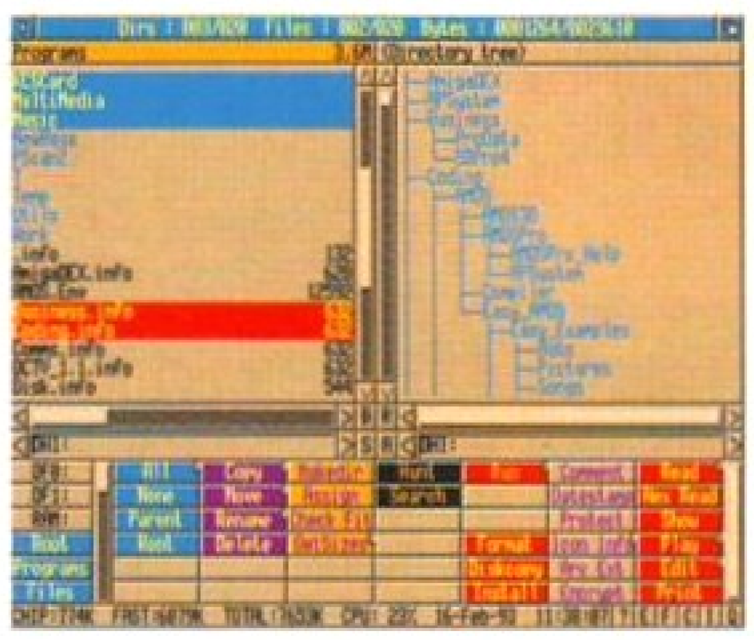
HI SOFT 415
The makers of some of the Amiga's most powerful programming languages will have the latest versions of them on show. Expect to see Lattice C 6 and *Devpac3*

HIQ 423
Amiga workstations galore are what to expect from the boys at HIQ.

ICPUG 456
The independent Commodore user group will be after you for membership. Talk to them, there are benefits for joining them.

ICD INC. 220
ICD Have a reputation of producing some of the best hardware for the Amiga, and they're sure to have lots on show.

INOVATRONICS 309
We took a vote in the *Amiga Format* offices, and… the software we'd least like to live without is *Directory Opus 4* (well, I said *Vista Pro*). These are the guys who make it, and if you're lucky they won't have sold out by the time you get to their stand.



We couldn't function without *Directory Opus*, you can get your copy at the Show.

KADOR 118
Are you the kind of person who is forever spilling things on to your Amiga? Do you have a hole in your roof just above where your Amiga lives? If so, you may want some of Kador's durable computer covers.

KONTAX ENGINEERING 454
Console units that enable you to keep your cables tidy, hide away your external drives and give you somewhere to stand your printer are all Contax's speciality. They'll be showing models for the A500, 600 and 1200.

LAZER FORCE 344
This could be your only chance to get into a large rubber inflatable and shoot light beams at complete strangers. If this isn't your idea of fun, you may be approaching senility. We'll all be in here before the show opens, and with any luck we'll stay here until it closes. The most fun you can have with all your clothes on. Try it!



Three years in development… the imagination and power of the *Zool* producers… *Litil Divil* shows up at the Show.

MAIL ORDER EXPRESS 144
Games, games and more games. That's what Mail Order Express are all about, don't miss 'em.

MERIDIAN DISTRIBUTION 422
Software, software and more software, that's what… oh you get the idea. this time you'll be able to take a look at the more 'serious' side.

MICROPROSE GA2
Often renowned for their virtuosity in the writing of flight simulation software, Microprose will be in the *Amiga Power* games arcade showing off their latest flight simulation software. It's the closest most of us will ever get to wreaking righteous revenge on international terrorists, so get along to the stand, grab a joystick and give 'em a go.

NASA PROMOTIONS 150
If you need a pen that will write in outer space, and most other places too, then try Nasa, they have the technology.

NEW DIMENSIONS 126
The fabulous entry-level sampler, *Technosound Turbo* will be at the show, and at a special price of £25.

NEW HORIZON COMPUTERS 119
The new range of Blizzard 32-bit memory expansion cards for the A1200 will be unveiled at the show.

PD SOFT 400
You may never guess it from their name, but PD soft will have a selection of PD software on their stand. If you want something cheap, cheerful and useful, pay 'em a visit.

PHOENIX 224
They started humbly by making A500 Plus RAM expansions, but nowadays Phoenix are a force to be reckoned with when it comes to Amiga product. See their ad in this issue, and check out their range at the Show.

POWER 211/308
Lots of proprietary hardware on show here. The new Power A1200 memory/FPU boards will be on show, and more importantly on sale, as will their new high density external drive. There'll be lots more too, so wander over to the power store if you need some hardware.

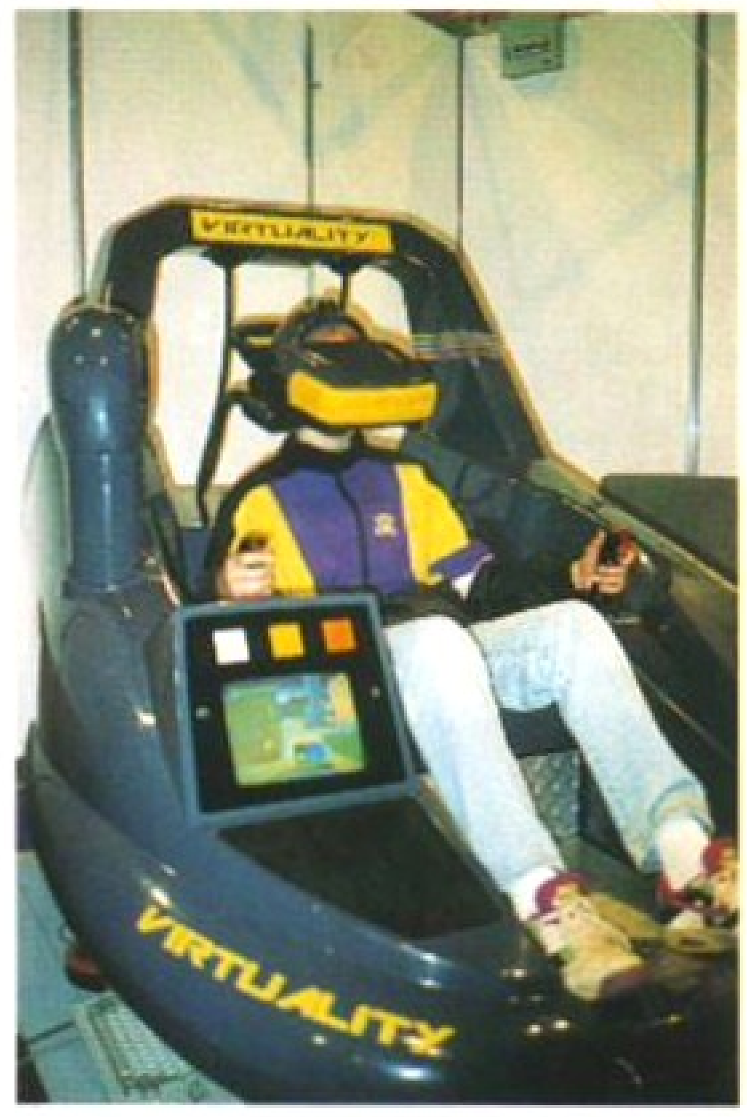
THE PRODUCERS 239
This stand will have a wide variety of games and utilities up for grabs.

QUILL MARKETING 452
If you're thinking of re-inking then this is the stand you should visit. Quill will also be showing their process to enable deskjet and bubblejet users to print on textiles.

ROMBO 418
As well as the new Vidi Amiga 24, the new real time 24-bit version of the old standard Vidi. Rombo will have a new product. It's top secret at present, but visit this stand to find out what it is.

ROMFORD COMPUTER CENTRE 112
This stand belongs, quite surprisingly, to a computer shop from Romford, they'll be selling all manner of Amiga related bits and pieces

SILICA SYSTEMS 212/113
GVP's main dealers, Silica sell almost everything that is worth having for the Amiga. Whatever you are after it's worth giving them a try. They will have hosts of bargain Amigas as detailed in this months News pages.



Sick'n' tired of boring, reality? Well you can try out the Virtual side at the Show.

SNAP COMPUTER SUPPLIES 411
If you're after computer disks and accessories, these people will be glad to assist you with your buying decision.

SOFTWARE DEMON 339
Famous for their huge but cheap IDE drives, and their speedy and pleasant service, Software Demon will be on hand to supply you with both. As a special extra, the long-awaited AGA version of Microprose' *Format* Gold-winning *Civilization* will be unveiled on the Software Demon stand.

US TRAVEL MARKETING 146
Fancy a break in the country the Amiga originates from? Here's your chance to pick up the holiday of a lifetime.

VIDEK LTD 444
You name it, they make it, as long as what you name is a computer cable. Whether it be a simple printer cable or something to connect your Amiga to a Saturn V booster control panel, you give Videk the pin-outs, they'll make the cable.

VIRGIN GAMES GA3
Beneath a Steel Sky, *Goal!*, *Dune 2* and *Apocalypse* will all be on screen and on free play in the *Amiga Power* arcade – so keep up with the hottest new releases from one of the best software houses.

WTS LTD 320/343
A huge range of hardware and peripherals will be on the WTS stand, including A1200 hard drive kits, monitors, workstations, Kickstart upgrades and power supplies.

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!
You can see for yourself how exciting and action-packed the Show is going to be, so get yourself down there. If you don't have tickets yet, you can get them by dialling **051-356 5085**, or filling out the booking forms on Pages 23 or 133. See you there!

17/03/93

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In any correspondence please quote a phone number & post code. Allow 5 working days for cheque clearance

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- Guaranteed Next Day (week days) Delivery...£4.90
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Prices are subject to change without notice. E&OE.

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NEW LOW PRICE!!

AMIGA 1200 £369.99!!!

This has got to be the best Amiga under £400.00 ever produced. 32 bit technology based on the 68020 chip running at 14.2 Mhz & also the new AA custom chipset. The 1200 represents the future of the Amiga. Buy it!! Comes with WB3.

The New Amiga 4000/030

Replacing the Amiga 2000/3000 range the new 4000/030 is based on the 68030 processor. It comes complete with 80Mb hard drive & 4Mb of RAM (2Mb of chip & 2Mb of Fast) & WB3

only £1099

AMIGA 500 Plus only £199.99
or Cartoon Classics Pack £229.99

with Lemmings, Captain Planet, The Simpsons & D-Paint 3

AMIGA 500 Deluxe only £269.99
with built in ROM sharer 2.04/1.3

AMIGA 600 Basepack £229.99!

AMIGA 600 20HD The Epic pack

With 20 Mb Hard drive, Epic, Rome, Myth, & Trivial Pursuit, Dictionary, Language Lab & Deluxe Paint 3

only £354.99 (Inc On Site Maintenance)

The A600 Wild, Weird & Wicked

inc Micro Prose Grand Prix, Deluxe Paint 3, Putty & Pushover

only £289.99

A600 DELUXE ....ONLY £329.99
A600 20HD DELUXE....ONLY £414.99

inc. ROM sharer with 1.3 & 2.05 ROM's making incompatibility a thing of the past. The A600 HD Deluxe comes with a Built in 20 Mb hard drive

Just add 39.99 for a 2 Mb 600 Deluxe!!

NEW!

PRIMA A1200 REAL TIME CLOCK

at last now you can date and time stamp your files Fits directly onto the motherboard with no soldering.

only £14.99!

A600 & 1200's with built in Hard Drive plus HD kits for A600/1200's

Add £14.99 for Real Time Clock!

	HD KIT	A600	A1200
20Mb	*£99.99	N/A	£534.99
60Mb	*£179.99	£484.99	£584.99
80Mb	*£215.99	£528.99	£628.99
120Mb	*£299.99	£629.99	£729.99

*Just Add £15.00 for fitting

All Amiga's come with Workbench, mouse & 12 month warranty. The A600's, A1200 & A4000 come with 12 months on site warranty All 1200/600's also come with a built in integral hard disk option.

THE AMAZING ZOOL PACK!

Complete with the best selling:
- ZOOL (97% Amiga Computing, Nov 92)
- STRIKER (94% CU Amiga, June 92),
- PINBALL DREAMS (94% AUI, Sept 92)
- TRANSWRITE word processor

only £29.99
only £19.99 with any AMIGA!

CDTV MULTI MEDIA PACK

Complete with CDTV, Keyboard, Mouse, disc drive Fred Fish & Workbench 1.3

only £469.99

CD Rom Amiga A570

Turns your Amiga 500 into a CDTV *at an amazing low price!*

now only £149.99!

65 Mb Hard Drive for the CDTV...£339.99
CDTV keyboard..........................only £49.99

PRIMA Mouse/Joystick interface

Transform your CDTV into a standard Amiga with this simple plug in peripheral

only £32.99

PRINTERS

All our printers are UK spec.

Canon FUJITSU CITIZEN COMPUTER PRINTERS hp HEWLETT PACKARD THE star COMPUTER PRINTERS

All our printers come with ribbon/toner, printer drivers (if available), paper & cables!!

STAR Printers

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NEWS brief

MONITOR RUMOURS

Our sources reveal that Commodore are planning a new monitor to enable users to get the most from the new A1200 AGA graphics modes. The screen which is set to replace the 1085S will be a high resolution multisync, giving you all the advantages of the AGA screen modes with none of the flicker. Expect more news on this soon.

ADPRO GOES TOASTER

***Art Department Professional* is constantly adding to it's vast repertoire of loader and saver modules. The latest addition is Video Toaster Framestore format. AdPro becomes the first item of third party software to offer the format. *AdPro 2.3* also introduces a hotlink to *Deluxe Paint 4.6*, which gives *AdPro* access to *DPaint*'s primary, secondary and animation buffers.**

This will allow networked machines to manipulate Toaster images, even if they are not equipped with a toaster. All very exciting if you are an American. But till there's a PAL Toaster, of no use to us on this side of the pond.

HELP ON HAND

JJc are a new company, but as we stated several issues ago, they have a lot of experience with Commodore micros. To help you get the most out of your Amiga, they have prepared a series of disks that form a full tutorial on using the machine. The course is aimed at new Amiga users, or those who have been using their machine from games, but may wish to exploit more of its creative potential. Subscribers to the course get 12 disks dealing with the Amiga system, software, hardware, design, hints and tips. An added bonus is that subscribers will also have access to a personal Q and A service.

In a similar vein, JJc are offering a *Pen Pal* tutorial, combining a disk and 50-page booklet, this is done with approval of *Pen Pal* owners Gordon Harwood. If you think you could benefit from JJc's experience, give them a call on 0494 883347.

MORE A1200 MEMORY

The MBX1200 may have been the first, but we always knew it wouldn't be the only trapdoor RAM expansion/clock/FPU board for the A1200. Power have proved us right. Starting at £185.95 for 4Mb of RAM with clock but no FPU the range goes all the way to 4Mb of RAM with clock and 50Mhz 68882 for £339.95. Whether you get one of these or an MBX1200 comes down to price, and whether you want 4Mb. Call Power on 0234 843388 for details of the spec you require.

HIGH DENSITY DRIVE

Power have launched a 1.76Mb external drive, for use with any Workbench after 2.04. Software is included to read 1.44Mb PC disks. Existing drive owners can upgrade. No price as yet, call Power on 0234 843388 for details.

At last the A2400 is here



It has been long rumoured, and now it is here. Commodore's 030 based mid range machine is a down-specced A4000.

On March 24, at their Maidenhead headquarters, Commodore put an end to all the speculation about a new Amiga. It will be a 4000 with a Motorola 68030 processor. You've probably read in the press for some time now about a fabled new Amiga, and this is it. Obviously the gap between the fabulous value A1200 and the slightly less obvious bargain, the A4000, had to be bridged. Many, ourselves included, theorised at great length as to what form the machine would take, and at first, the new Amiga seems a little disappointing, but when you consider the prices things start to look a lot more positive. The machine will have 4Mb of RAM as standard and will be available in either 80 Mb or 120 Mb hard drive configurations. Prices are £999 and £1,099 respectively.

There are only a couple of shadows over the new announcement. Commodore are pushing the A4000/030 as a 3D ray-tracing/music/DTP/mulitimedia workstation, but for these applications the drive sizes on offer look a bit small, this is mediated by the fact that you can buy cheap 3.5-inch IDE drives, and the controller can accept two. The second concern is how can Commodore hope to maintain the price of the A4000/040 when all you have to do is by an 030 machine and bung a 040 chip in? Expect to see the A4000/040 down in price soon! Commodore demonstrated *Real 3D2* (see review on Page 138), *Scala*, *Bars and Pipes Pro 2* (Page 142) and *TVPaint2* on the A4000 and we're now convinced the Amiga is a platform to take on all comers.

DMA drop Amiga



Pictured: DMA Design who are responsible for *Lemmings 2*. Say hello and then wave goodbye; they're quitting Amiga programming because of piracy.

DMA Design, the company responsible for *Lemmings*, are not producing any original Amiga games after June. The decision was made after the release of *Lemmings 2*, because the level of piracy on the Amiga is too high. David Jones, who formed DMA with the release of *Blood Money*, told ***AF***: "No original Amiga software is planned. Amiga hardware sales are growing rapidly, and software sales falling, so piracy is increasing. I'd love to see CD take off, because that would help a lot.

"We will be producing another *Lemmings* for the Amiga, because most people who play it actually buy it. We will monitor our forthcoming releases, *Walker* and *Hired Guns*, carefully. If the situation picks up, we may consider other original projects."

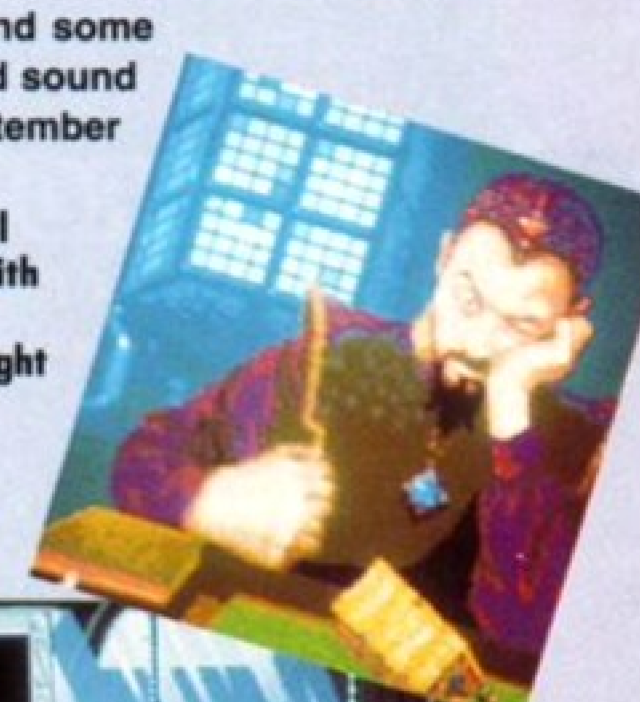
Ian Hetherington of Psygnosis, publishers of DMA, commented: "We will continue to support the Amiga as long as it is viable. DMA are entitled to their opinions, but the situation is the same on other formats . We are investing heavily into CD because it is pirate-proof – virtually."

The news from DMA is proof that if you copy games you are killing the future of the Amiga as a games machine.

Millennium support

James Pond is set to return to the small screen in a new adventure, called _Operation Starfi5h_ (sic), from Millennium Interactive. The game is headlining the forthcoming releases from the company, which include no less than six A1200-specific releases.

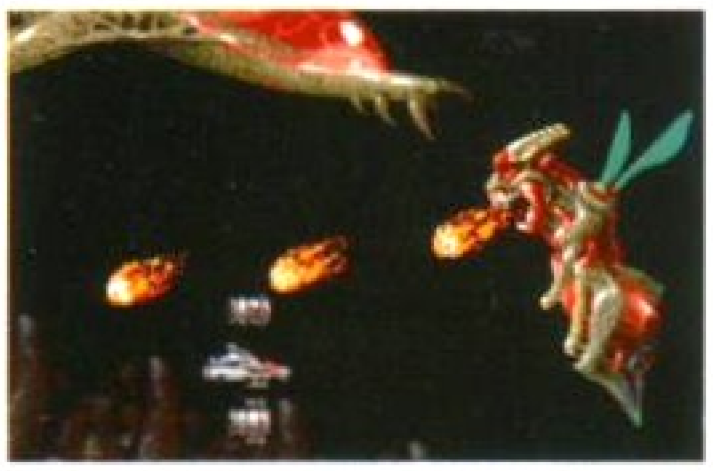
The first two, due in May, are 1200-enhanced versions of _James Pond 1_ and _2_. They boast extra levels and secret bonuses – oh, and some extra colours and sound to boot. In September



Strategy heads will have a field day with Millennium's new releases. *Flag* at right is a full screen 3D isometric game, *Diggers* is more arcade-y.



Dutch Hero



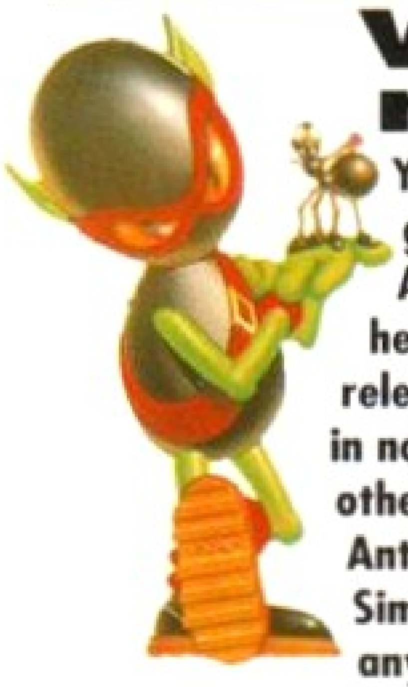
Giger-esque graphics abound in level 3 of *D-Hero*, check it out on next months disk.

Euphoria is the name of a new software development team set up in Holland. They have the great honour of being the first Dutch games programming house, and their first game, *D-Hero*, is due for release at the *Amiga Format* Live show on May 7th (see Page 11).

It's basically a horizontally scrolling shoot-em-up in the style of *Project-X*, which plays well and sounds good – and the graphics are absolutely amazing!

If you want to see for yourself, check out the Coverdisk on the next issue of *Amiga Format* (which is also on sale at the show), because an exclusive playable demo will be contained therein. For more information on *D-Hero* contact Profile on 0925 263363.

We were never wrong



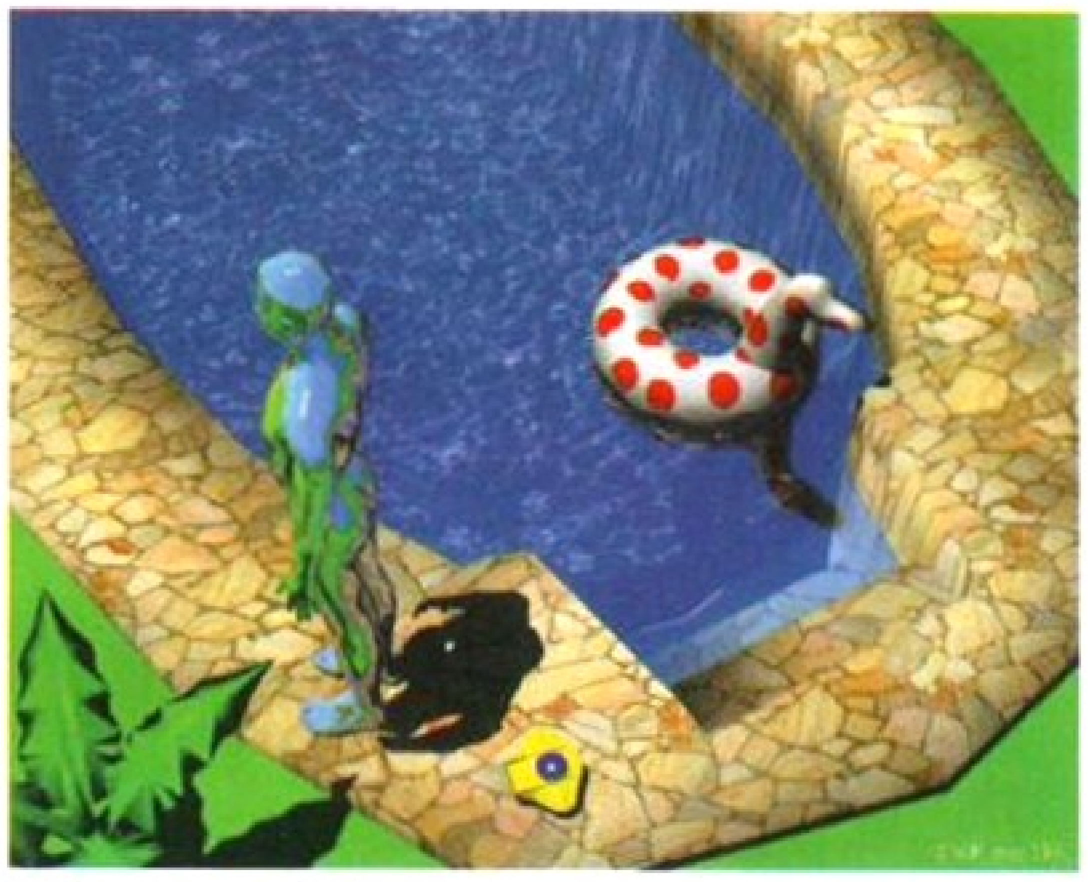
You may have read in all the other, not so intelligent, computer magazines about an alien ninja ANT called Zool. But not here, we never thought he was an ant, for two reasons, we read the press releases from publisher Gremlin, who were specific in not stating that he was an ant anywhere, and the other reason is that he doesn't look like an ant. Ants have 6 legs, Zool has two legs and two arms. Simple innit. Watch out for *Zool 2*, it won't have any ants in it.

Here is the Alien called Zool, he is not an ant, despite what *Amiga Power* and the other magazines may say.

Opalvision gets Roaster at last (maybe)

At *AF* we're still waiting for the famous Opalvision roaster chip, but if distributors ZCL are to be believed, and they usually are, it will be sitting in a shop near you in early May.

The chip forms the core of the Video Processor Module which plugs directly into the Opalvision motherboard. Once in place you have a realtime 24-bit framegrabber, a pro quality Genlock with chroma and luma keying, and the roaster chips ability to do unlimited transitions, colour processing and digital video effects. A regular PAL equivalent to NewTek's excellent but resolutely NTSC Video Toaster. The Opalvision Video Suite gives complete audio and video mixing, switching and transcoding. It has an external 19-inch rack mount unit with nine video and 10 audio inputs. The price for both is £849 and they will be available through ZCL and Calculus. 0543 251275



With it's new modules on sale soon Opalvision looks set to be the PAL equivalent of the Toaster.

show 1200



James Pond 3 here in September, the A1200 version is getting along swimmingly.

we can look forward to *James Pond 3*, where a new star will emerge – Finnius Frog – which introduces a two-player option. Again, there will be a 1200-only version available separately.

The other four releases have working titles at the time of writing. They are: Diggers, an arcade/strategy game released on the 1200 (June) and the 600 (September); *Flag*, a full-screen isometric 3D strategy game for the 600 *(September)*; *Dino-Worlds*, an action/puzzle game for the 1200 (October) and the 600 (November); and lastly, *Beastball*, a futuristic two-player football game , released on the 1200 (November) and the 600 (December). We will give you more details of these games nearer the time of release. Contact Millennium on 0223 844894.

AMIGA SCORES BEST YEAR EVER



Between it's launch in October 1992 and Christmas the A1200 sold over 44,000 units.

1992 WAS A record-breaking year for Commodore, and the Amiga particularly. Figures published reveal the A600 sold 200,000 units in the last quarter, and the new A1200 sold 44,000 machines between its launch in October and the end of the year. The combined sales figures of all Amigas is 390,000. This continued sales success ensures that our machines will continue to have software support for many years to come.

OCR for less

We liked the AlfaScan with OCR when we reviewed it (*AF*40 – 79 per cent), but we hated the price. £335 is a lot to pay, even with OCR. Now Golden Image have dropped the price to an altogether more reasonable £149. For this you get the 256 greyscale hand-held scanner with software, a program to let you merge scans to make a wider picture than the scan head, and Migraph Junior OCR. If you have to key in lots of typed or printed material this could save you hours. If you have 2Mb of RAM and a hard drive, call Golden Image on 081-365 1102.



OCR scanners used to cost the earth, now they're a better buy.

Son of OL400

ON THIS MONTH'S Letters you'll find the names of the winners of our OKI OL-400 competition. These lucky people will soon be receiving an OKI LED laser-quality printer each. For those of you who have to buy yours, there's good news. OKI have brought out a little brother, the OL-400e, it takes up less desk space than the OL-400, and more importantly it costs much less. £499 gives you 4-pages per minute printer, with 300 dpi resolution. And the printer uses toner recycling to reduce ozone emissions to virtually zero. Green users can call OKI's PR peeps on 0753 819819 for more info.



The little brother of the OL400 offers similar features with a smaller footprint.

The Future of Entertainment Shows



The Future Entertainment Show, now with added *GamesMaster*. Be there, or as they say, be somewhere else…

Last year there was the highly successful, but a bit packed, Future Entertainment Show at Earls Court. (Your very own editor Marcus Dyson designed all the posters and tickets and stuff, in fact). The show was a massive success, much more so than the dark and dingy *GamesMaster* Live show at Birmingham's NEC.

GM Live turned out to be considerably less packed than the FES, and this year Hewland, the dudes and dudesses who make *GamesMaster* the TV programme, have decided that they want their show to be huge, bright, brash and wonderful. So they've joined us. We're having one great big almighty-massive, hugely fabulous show at the grand hall in Olympia, and you're all invited.

Amiga Format will be there to chat to you, as will the teams of *Amiga Power*, *Amiga Shopper* and *GamesMaster* magazine. Dominik Diamond will be there, and so will some people from our console toy magazines. Come along. Call 0225 442244 for details.

RED NOSE SUCCESS



Domonik Diamond and Chris Evans were among many others who put their hand to joystick for Comic Relief. The Sleepwalker game has helped raise lots for a worthy cause, let's just hope the rest of the industry take heed.

Higher res lower price

If you have an A1200 or A4000 you may be having a little problem getting the best from your computer. All the super new millions-of-colours high resolution screen modes are just too flickery for comfort, unless you have a high cost multisync monitor that is. But what about a brand new vanilla-flavoured high-res monitor from New Horizon Computers? These machines have an FST tube, a dot pitch of 0.28mm and an integral tilt and swivel base. Prices were not announced at time of going to press, but New Horizon claimed they would be "very affordable". We'll be reviewing them next issue but if you can't wait that long for price details call 0989 750260 and hassle Peter Strong, not us.



Vanilla monitors promise to offer flicker free high resolution at a price affordable to all (or most at least).

Cheerful Disks

DYSAN CLAIM that all their 'Dysan 100 Colorform' range are now tested virus free during manufacture. Well that's very re-assuring isn't it? What about before? Anyway, they're virus free now. They're bright coloured and we like 'em. Give Action Computer Supplies a call on 081-900 2566 if, like us, you can't live without some of these colourful floppies.



Dyson ColorForm 100s - they're bright, their virus free and they're guaranteed to get your Gallery submissions noticed.

● Little known fact. Coverdisk and Gallery submissions stand a better chance of getting prompt attention if they are on nice coloured disks, we like red and yellow ones the best.

CARTOON CLASSIC



The Cartoon classics bundle and *Zool* pack represent an unbelievable bargain.

The aging but excellent A500 Cartoon Classics pack soldiers on. For £229 you get a 1Mb A500, *Bart Simpson Versus the Space Monsters, Lemmings, Captain Planet, Deluxe Paint III, GFA Basic, Photon Paint, Zool, Striker, Pinball Dreams* and *Transwrite*. Now that's what we call a bargain. If you want one, call Silica on 081-309 1111.

NEWS brief

WE'RE ON TV

Amiga Format are working with Digitiser, Channel 4's teletext computer games section, to bring you all the latest and greatest game reviews. Tune in to page 470 for full details of the Digitiser service, they have reviews, competitions, gossip and Charts. They were originally set up as a console-toy service, but when they discovered that there are more Amigas than either SNESs or Mega Drives they quickly started including stuff for us Amiga owners. Check 'em out!

NEW MEMORY MERCHANTS

Marpet Developments have been selling memory expansions to users of the Atari ST for years, but as you can imagine, that won't pay the rent these days. So they have targeted the Amiga market for a new range of RAM upgrades. Starting with a humble A500 0.5 Mb board, they go all the way up to 8Mb expansions for the CDTV. Marpet pride themselves on their service and support, this remains to be seen, but their low prices however are evident immediately. Try these: A500 0.5Mb no clock £13.99; A500 Plus 1Mb £19.99; A600 1Mb no clock £22.99; A600 1Mb with clock £39.99. Sounds like a bargain to us, call them on 04243 712600 and find out where you can get your mitts on 'em.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DISK OF ALL TIME?

You know, we know and Commodore know there's no Hard Drive Install disk with the A1200. We've even mentioned the fact on this month's Letters pages, but they were written a few days ago, and now there's a solution to the problem. Just £5.99 will bring you all the software you need to prep, partition and format your IDE drive from the First Computer Centre. If you can't wait seven days for delivery, call 0532 319444 (and not on their fax number which we printed last month) and they'll quote you for a quicker delivery.

PAINT SEQUEL

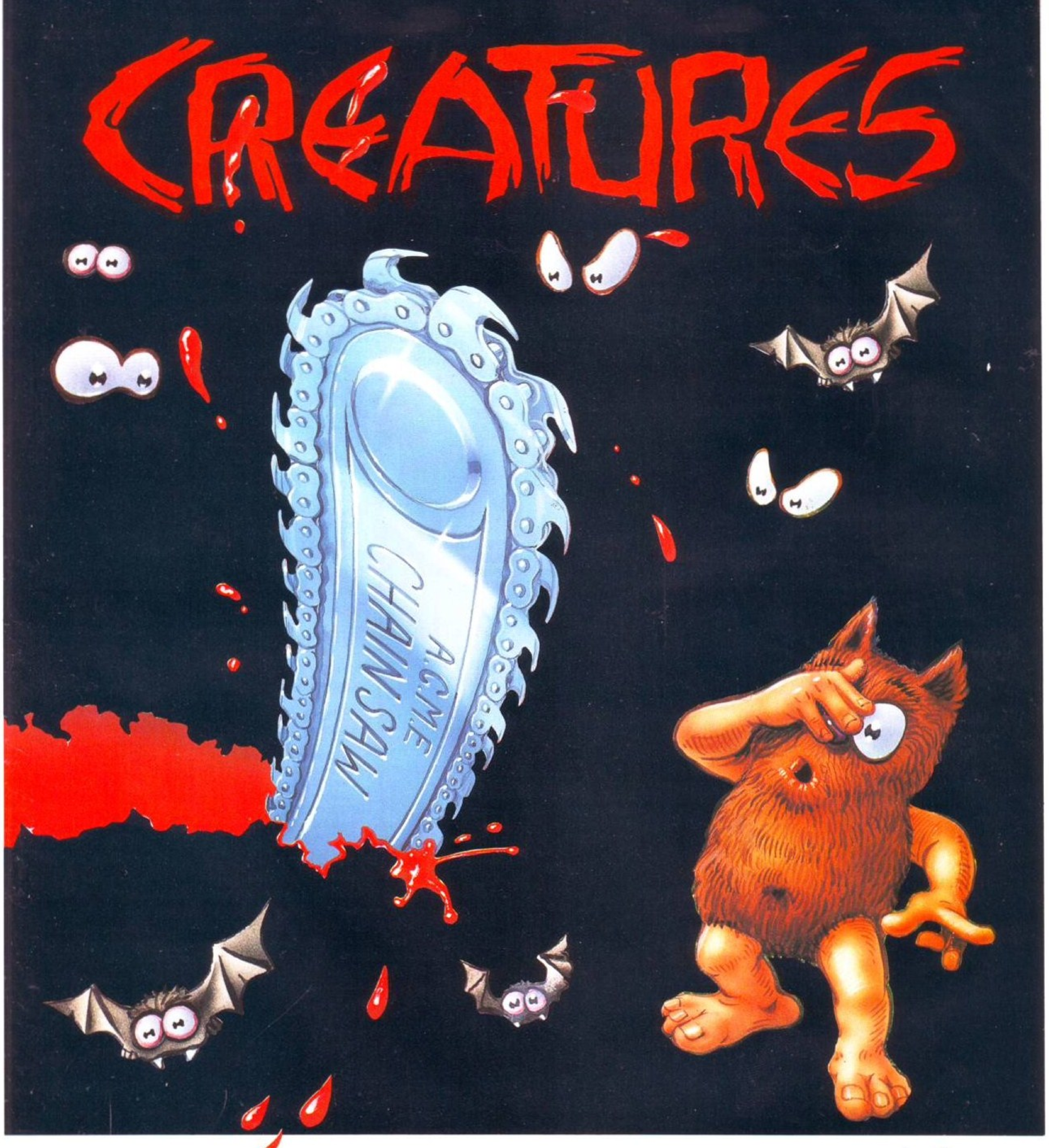
TVPaint 2 is now shipping. Redesigned with WB3 in mind, this amazingly good and gobsmackingly fast paint program for the Harlequin 24-bit card has been reduced in price from £900 to £600. Existing users can upgrade for £100. Expect a review soon. Amiga Centre Scotland: 089 687 583.

MORE MICE

Gasteiner have a new 400 dpi opto-mechanical mouse on the market. Made in Japan, £14.95 gets you the mouse and a two-year warranty. 081-365 1151

NEW MANAGEMENT

Citizen, who sell more printers than anyone else, are about to launch Citizen Print Manager 2. The original software saw dot-matrix printouts of a quality never before seen. The new version hopes to improve quality even further. Star, and Panasonic are both currently working on rival software.


CREATURES
A.C.M.E CHAINSAW

FEELING INSPIRED?

This selection of Amiga software titles can help you paint, morph, animate, render, trace, model, present, design... create whatever your imagination holds.

Personal Paint — RRP £59.99

Achieve sophisticated image processing with Personal Paint.

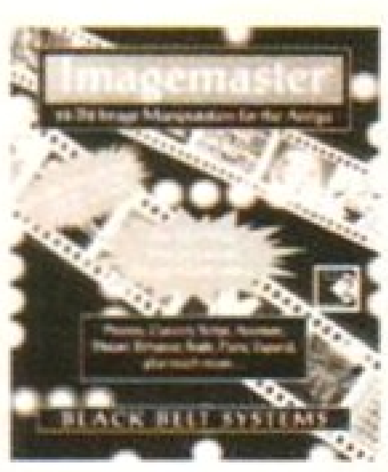
NEW!



- full Advanced Graphics Architecture support
- programmable effects like emboss, sharpen, blur
- up to nine brushes
- colour font support
- text editor
- Amiga Clipboard for text and images

ImageMaster — RRP £159.99

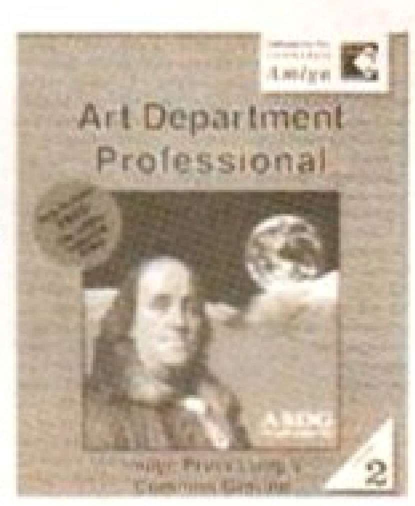
For excellent 24bit image manipulation.



- hundreds of tools including: gamma correction,colourise, rotation, morph, mirror, zigzag, special FX
- more than fifty image compositing tools including: merge, rubthru, punch, scale, clip, anti-alias
- complete set of 24bit painting tools

Art Department Professional v2.1.5 — RRP £179.99

Speed, power and flexibility in one image processing package.

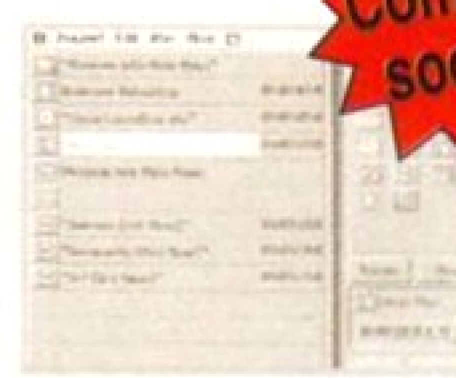


- 24bit colour or 8bit greyscale processing
- read and write file formats including IFF, JPEG, PCX, BMP, etc.
- control a range of peripherals including graphics cards, postscript printers, etc.
- modular processing functions include apply map, blur, colourise, flip and more
- powerful colour correction and separation facilities
- ARexx interface

MediaLink 3.0 — RRP £399.99

Create, combine and synchronize graphics, text and animations with audio and video.

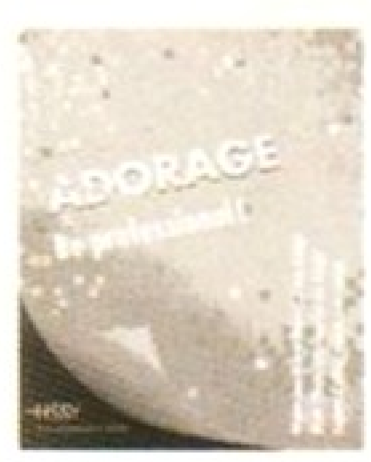
Coming soon!



- real-time loading of larger-than-RAM animations from hard disk
- supports three time code systems: internal, MIDI and SMPTE/EBU
- anti-aliased fonts
- ultra smooth line and page transitions
- intuitive user interface, multitasking
- XaPP (external applications) support: link up video disc players, VCRs, CDTV, etc.

Adorage — RRP £79.99

The English version of Germany's best-selling digital video effects generating software for the Amiga!



- Super Smooth Animation (SSA) format
- more than 700 combinations of effects
- fast execution of effects on either brushes or screens
- on-line help

From the publishers of Adorage -- introducing clariSSA

clariSSA enables Amiga animators to create, join and play back smooth, colour-accurate anim5 or SSA animations in broadcast quality. Extremely fast and easy to use.

CLARISSA

Coming soon!

Distributed exclusively by Micro-PACE.

X-CAD 2000 — RRP £151.58
X-CAD 3000 — RRP £386.58

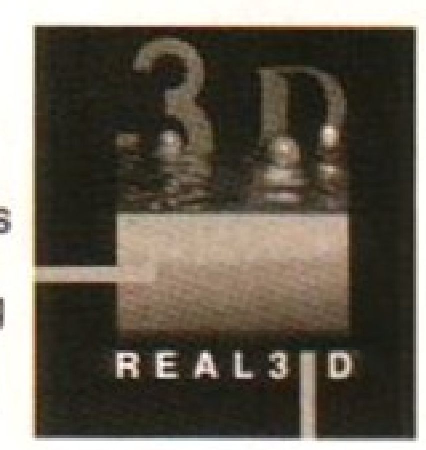
Powerful computer-aided design with X-CAD.



- super fast zoom and redraw commands
- 2500 possible command combinations
- 2D and 3D modelling
- accurate to 1 millionth of a millimetre
- up to 32 user definable viewports

Real 3D Professional Turbo — RRP £99.99

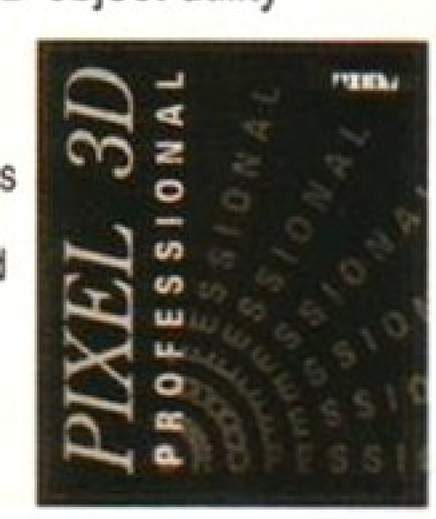
Professional 3D modelling, ray-tracing and animation tool.



- sophisticated solid modelling and 24-bit rendering
- lighting and fog effects
- superior materials handling and mapping methods
- 2D animations on 3D surfaces
- freeform tools and powerful animation functions

Pixel 3D Professional — RRP £144.99

The most powerful 3D object utility program available!



- loads and saves 14 different 3D file formats
- convert bitmaps of logos and pictures and structured fonts to 3D objects
- single point editing facilities
- smooth, bevel and extrude converted bitmaps with precise control
- object optimisation tools including polygon reduction
- spin objects on any axis with offsets and definable zoom

Contact your local dealer or ring Micro-PACE on (+44) 0753 551 888 for the dealer nearest you.

Micro-PACE UK, Ltd.
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WANTED!

The world's biggest Amiga fans have persuaded the world's most important Amiga companies to put on the world's best Amiga show

AMIGA FORMAT Live '93
WEMBLEY EXHIBITION CENTRE
7 - 9 MAY 1993

Now all we need is you...



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at its be
AMIGA FORMAT Live '93
WEMBLEY EXHIBITION CENTRE
7TH - 9TH MAY 1993
Amiga Form





ga st!

Be there!

It's the Amiga event of the year!

- Imagine an event showcasing the very best of the Amiga – from games to graphics, from music to multimedia, from DTP to digitising
- Imagine it featured demonstrations of leading packages from acknowledged Amiga experts
- Imagine a whole array of hardware and software being sold at bargain prices
- And imagine that the whole thing was supported massively by Commodore

Imagine no longer. Amiga Format Live has this – and so much more – at Wembley from May 7 to 9th

Massive games arcade!
This is your chance to play the hottest new games entirely for free! (And not a console in sight!)

Stunning Sound & Vision stage!
Graphics and music collide in a unique Show feature. Miss this and your Amiga might as well be mono!

A quite good* Future Forum!
Editors, experts and sundry Amiga fans are there in the flesh to answer all your questions! [*That's enough hard sell–Ed]

at Live: It's an Amiga fan's dream come true!

Don't miss the Amiga event of the year! Tickets can be booked in advance with our

Credit-card hotline 051-356 5085

Booking form

Yes please! I'd like ______ tickets (at £5.95 each)
And ______ under-10 tickets (at £5.00 each)
Total payment £ ______
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Expiry date ______

Please make all cheques payable to Future Events
Send this coupon to AMIGA FORMAT LIVE '93,
PO Box 2, Ellesmere Port,
South Wirral
L65 3EA.

AF05

NEWS *brief*

WE TOLD YOU MULTIMEDIA WAS THE FUTURE

Manchester 2000, the group who are trying to bring the Olympic games to the home of the late great Factory records are using an Amiga to do it. An A4000 running Scala MM200 software to present Manc's case. Commodore's Mike Gosheron, Multimedia sales manager said: "The Amiga has a deserved reputation as an unbeatable presentation platform, and we are delighted that Manchester 2000 has chosen to use it in its campaign."

MORE GVP PRODUCT

After the stonkingly wonderful, but a bit pricey, mate, A1230 GVP have announced another A1200 add on. The A1200 SCSI/RAM+ will be similar to the MBX1200 in that it will offer RAM expansion capabilities up to 4Mb and a socket for an FPU to be added, but in addition to this it will have GVP's acclaimed high speed SCSI interface. Not yet here, the board will be marketed by UK distributors Silica, call them on 082 309 1111 for details.

WORDWORTH TWO AGAIN

Digita International's excellent *Wordworth II* (*AF*41 – 91 per cent) document processor is now AGA enhanced. The new release will be able to make use of all those high resolution, 256 colour screen modes. The program also supports all the Amiga's standard file formats for imported graphics. Digita 0395 270273.

WANTED: PD DEMOS

Are you a demo writer, have you produced anything new and exciting that shows of the abilities of the A1200? If so and if your demo will run on a standard A1200 HD40, and it mentions the Amiga – and the software used in some way, is hard drive installable, loops continuously, and is family viewable and public domain – then you may want to send it to:

"An Amiga in Every Home"
c/o Zoltan Hunt
R. R. #2 Beeton
Ontario, Canada
LOG 1AO

They are looking for visual demos to try and popularise the Amiga in North America. It sounds a bit too much like he's asking for you to write him a free advert.

ESSENTIALS

We get loads of letters and calls from people asking where to get Amiga power supplies and TV Modulators. The answer is almost anywhere, but when you call the shops that are advertising them, they often don't have stock, or they are asking the earth for them. Problem solved! Call Direct Computer Supplies of Stoke on 0782 311471, they have supplies of mods at £18.50 fully guaranteed with possibility of exchange for your old one. Power supplies are £29.99. See their advert in this issue.

Revell revel in road racing

Do you remember Revell model kits, the ones that were never as well moulded as the Airfix ones? Well the company behind them is the world's leading seller of plastic model kits. Why should you care? Well it's not really that important, we're just setting the scene before telling you that they have launched into the interactive home entertainment market with a new CDTV product. The disk uses 3D modelling, animation and real life actors to show you how to construct your model kit.

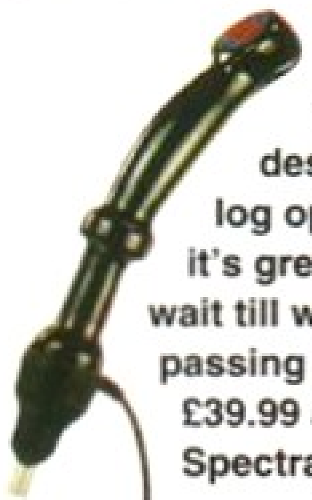
Then it gives a multimedia demo of the real car's technical performance. Finally it allows you play a road-racing game where you could be stopped by the cops for speeding, all shown with real video footage. If you race like a demon you can upgrade your motor and enter track events. The Motor Stars series, with kits of the Bugatti EB110, Porsche 911, BMW Nazca M12, and Lamborghini LP500S will be followed by American Street Cars (we hope they include the Dodge Viper) and High Tech Aircraft. We'll bring you a full review soon.



If you find £12.99 model kits difficult to assemble, you need a CD compatible multimedia workstation to give you a hand.

Virtually a pilot

To follow on from their interesting Freewheel (*AF44*), Logic three are about to release the Free Flight. Aimed, as you may guess, at flight sim fans, it's a free joystick, designed by pilots. It has analog optical switching and they say it's great, we on the other hand will wait till we've played with one before passing judgement. It will cost £39.99 and be available from Spectra-Video, 081-902 2211.



Amiga Pilots will soon be able get their fists around this proud stick.

A cheap 600 anyone?

The A600 is now going for a song. If you want the benefits of Workbench 2, but still want a cheap Amiga, how about an A600 for £249? Or a 2Mb machine for £279. Who's selling these cheapies? That's right it's Silica, call 081-309 1111.

MAXimum size prints

Max Graphics of Cardiff sponsor *AF*'s Gallery on the Letters pages, every month the winner gets a huge print of their artwork. But if you don't want to enter the Gallery, or if you have a specific printing need give them a call. Essentially a design bureau, Max can also do scanning, encapsulation, mounting, laminating and of course Colossal Colour Printing. For one offs, presents, exhibitions there is no better way of getting short run prints, and the quality is superb. A one off A1 on 80gsm paper costs £40, and prices are proportional around that figure. One massive advantage of the Colossal Colour System is that it can print any length of poster or banner. Call Max Graphics on 0222 522332 with your high-quality, large computer output problems.



This is either a very small girl or a massively huge print. In fact it's an average size girl and an above-average size picture.

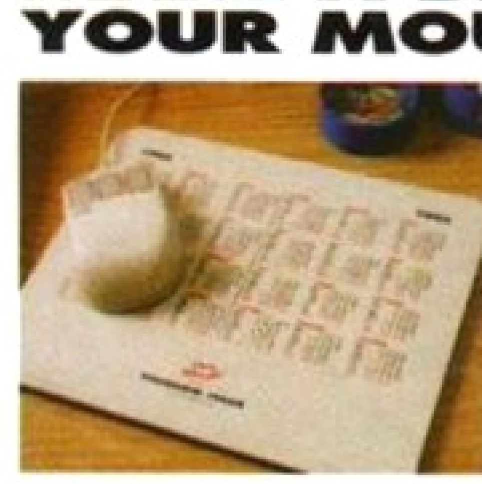
ON NO! EVEN MORE LEMMINGS

Bored with having over-run every conceivable computer format, those cute, green-haired chaps have jumped to CD. No not CDTV, they've been available on that for years, we mean audio CD, and cassette and Vinyl too. Yes there's a *Lemmings* record, and it's not bad. Rather predictably it takes the acid-dance approach rather than the hardcore or grunge route to chart success. But then what do you expect from a disk produced by KLF backroom boys Nick Coler and Ian Richardson. If you're gonna get down, get down to the record shop and buy this. It's called, rather imaginatively, *Lemmings – The record* and it's on Synthetic through EMI.



MAKE A DATE WITH YOUR MOUSE MAT

Do you, like us, keep losing your year planner? Do you have to search around your desk before you can make an appointment? Then why not get one of these? It's a mouse mat with built in 2 year calendar. Available for an all-in price of £7.95 from Shielding Technology on 0252 519224.

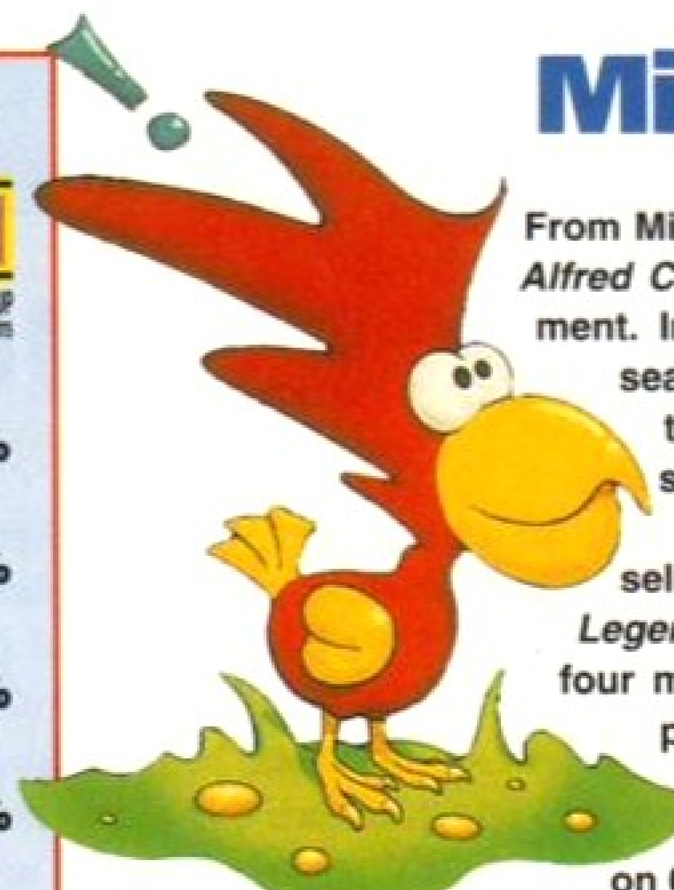


Never lose your year planner again, unless you lose your mouse mat that is!

This month's top 30

ELSPA PENGUIN CHARTS – COMPILED BY GALLUP

1(10)	▲	**Sleepwalker – Comic Relief**	
		Ocean	FG91%
2(–)	New	**Lemmings 2**	
		Psygnosis	FG94%
3(2)	▼	**Premier Manager**	
		Gremlin Graphics	87%
4(1)	▼	**Streetfighter 2**	
		US Gold	87%
5(3)	▼	**Sensible Soccer 92/93**	
		Renegade/Mindscape	80%
6(–)	New	**Legends of Valour**	
		US Gold	FG91%
7(4)	▼	**Wing Commander**	
		Origin/Mindscape	83%
8(5)	▼	**Zool**	
		Gremlin Graphics	FG95%
9(7)	▼	**Indiana Jones – Fate of Atlantis**	
		US Gold	FG92%
10(6)	▼	**Nick Faldo's Golf**	
		Grandslam	FG90%
11(–)	New	**History Line 1914-1918**	
		Blue Byte	FG94%
12(13)	▲	**Monkey Island 2**	
		US Gold	FG95%
13(–)	Re	**Shadoworlds**	
		Krisalis	FG93%
14(21)	▲	**Jimmy White's Snooker**	
		Virgin	FG91%
15(8)	▼	**Road Rash**	
		Electronic Arts	79%
16(9)	▼	**AV8B Harrier Assault**	
		Domark	60%
17(11)	▼	**Campaign**	
		Empire	79%
18(–)	Re	**F-15 Strike Eagle II**	
		MicroProse	FG90%
19(18)	▼	**John Madden American Football**	
		Electronic Arts	FG94%
20(22)	▲	**Rome AD92**	
		Millennium	77%
21(14)	▼	**Civilization**	
		MicroProse	FG94%
22(29)	▲	**Lotus 3: The Ultimate Challenge**	
		Gremlin Graphics	76%
23(–)	?	**Graham Taylor Soccer Challenge**	
		Krisalis	82%
24(24)	■	**Archer MacLean's Pool**	
		Virgin Games	89%
25(16)	▼	**Dr Who – Dalek Attack**	
		Alternative	59%
26(26)	■	**Humans**	
		Mirage	72%
27(12)	▼	**WWF European Rampage Tour**	
		Ocean	18%
28(–)	Re	**Jaguar XJ220**	
		Core Design	83%
29(19)	▼	**Pinball Fantasies**	
		21st Century Entertainment	FG90%
30(23)	▼	**PGA Tour +**	
		Electronic Arts	Comp



Mindscape's fowl play

From Mindscape in September comes the bizarrely titled platform game *Alfred Chicken*. – it looks like it will rival *Putty* in the cuteness department. In the game you'll take Alfred through 11 levels of fantasy in search of his beloved fire-engine (?). To foil the poultry character, the designers have invented the Meka-Chickens, presumably some kind of mutant Paxo-filled nightmare.

The next release from Mindscape is the sequel to the best-selling isometric RPG game *Legend* (see Page 92). *Worlds of Legend* is similar in style to the original game, but it's based around four main characters set in the Empire of the Moon. The new game promises to be larger than *Legend*, with dozens of new puzzles and traps to catch you out. *Worlds of Legend* is to be released in June, but for information before then contact Mindscape on 0444 246333.

Let there be light

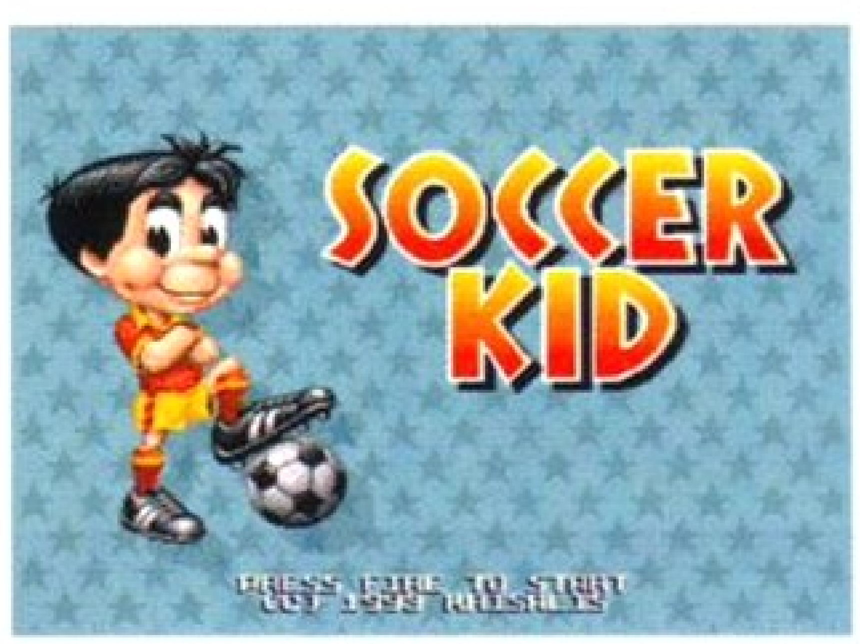
Genesia is the title of the next game from German software house Microids, makers of cutesy platform game Nicky Boom (*AF*42 – 88 per cent). Genesia is a management simulation, similar to *Caesar* and *Sim City*, where you are placed at the head of a race of people. Your job is to look after them and make them prosper, keeping their lives free from problems such as famine and war. Genesia will be released in May.

Also released through Daze will be *The Patrician*, a historical trading game from another German company Ascon GmbH. The game is for one-to-four players, and promises elements such as political intrigue and blackmail. The *Patrician* has been top of the German software charts for some time, but to play it yourself you'll have to wait until its release in June. Daze Marketing can be reached on 071-328 2762.



I ain't gonna play *Sim City*, I think I'll give *Genesia* a try instead.

Kinky boots



Soccer Kid's basically a platformer, but it has the added magic of football to liven it up.

Following *Arabian Nights* (see Page 64), the next game from Krisalis will be the long-awaited *Soccer Kid*. Set in the USA at the time of the World Cup in 1994, *Soccer Kid* is a scrolling platform game where you must recover the Cup which has been stolen by aliens. Fortunately the star of the game is pretty handy with a football, so he can use that to get rid of the obstacles between him and his goal. It's due for release in May, so we should be able to bring you a review in next month's issue. Contact Krisalis on 0709 372290.

Gulf War 2



Pacific Islands is widely respected as the best game in its field – so we can't wait for *Gulf...*

War in the Gulf is the name of the next game in the *Team Yankee/Pacific Islands* series (AF16 – 81 per cent and *AF*35 – 93 per cent respectively). The game is scheduled for release in April.

The new game is set in 1995, and places you in command of a crack tank squadron known as Team Kuwait. The Iraqis have stepped too far out of line and you must try to push them back into their own country while destroying their oil fields.

Entertainment International – 0268 541126

Will Gooch hit a six?

To coincide with the start of the cricket season, Audiogenic are soon to release *Graham Gooch World Class Cricket*. Unlike most previous cricket games, *World Class Cricket* looks good – with large sprites instead of the tiny characters we're used to. Audiogenic promise that it will play as well as it looks. It's scheduled for review in the next issue to find out for sure. It's due for release at the end of April – contact Audiogenic on 081-424 2244 for more information.


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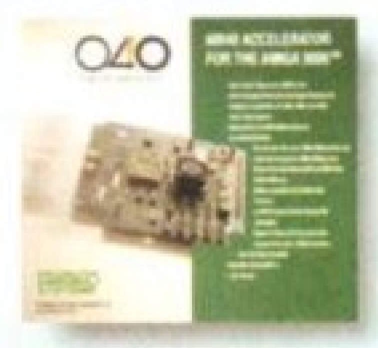
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Life in a children's ward can seem pretty daunting if you're a little 'un? One pair of dedicated Amiga enthusiasts think that they can make it seem that much better with the help of Harry. **Andy Nuttall** visited Lewisham Hospital to find out

I am H.A.R.R.Y



Rolf Harris, supporter of the Harry project, takes time out to create some doodles.

FOR TWO YEARS Mike Blackwell and his 15-year-old son Chris have been spreading the word of Harry, a project they set up to get Amiga computers into children's hospital wards. Harry stands for Helping And Responsibly Reassuring Youngsters, and the idea is to use the Amiga to reassure kids that life in hospital isn't that bad.

Mike raises sponsorship from companies like Canon, OKI, Commodore and Future Publishing (publishers of ***AF***) to offer special discounts on their equipment to the project, so equipment may be bought through Harry at a very low price. A Harry pack – an Amiga 600 with *Deluxe Paint IV*, subscriptions to *Amiga Format* and *Amiga Power*, *Lemmings*, *Dizzy* and 10 blank disks – costs around £260.

Mike explains that Harry is not a charity though: "We can't set ourselves up as a charity, so financially we are self-sufficient. The companies which support us are very willing to give us special prices, so we can pass these discounts on to the hospitals."

Until now, hospitals are advised by the government to purchase a certain type of computer. Mostly it's an Archimedes, sometimes a PC-compatible – which work out expensive. When Mike approaches a hospital with his scheme, they are surprised by the low cost. When the Amiga is installed, they are also surprised by the power of the machine – like many people, they had previously written off the Amiga as merely a games machine – but a child given five minutes on a program like *Deluxe Paint* can change all that.

A total of 15 children's wards are equipped with Harry. All have the basic set-up, while some have bought other equipment such as a printer, so they can print out the children's drawings and display them.

The most recent installation has been at Lewisham hospital in North London, where we caught up with Mike and Chris as they demonstrated the system.

Also in attendance was Rolf Harris, who has been a Harry supporter since the beginning – several months ago Chris was a guest on *Cartoon Time* where he demonstrated his animations. Rolf explains how he sees Harry fitting into hospitals: "It's nice to be involved in this, even as an observer. I've watched Chris since he was about 13, and the developments in his work have been amazing. It's like magic when you see kids come in and they go to their ward. You know what hospitals are like – nobody wants to be there. This gives them a lot of pleasure."

Lewisham hospital received funds from local policemen who staged a special event to raise money. PC Roy Wood, who led the event, explains what they did: "A few officers cycled in uniform 450 miles across Germany. We went to official functions, and got sponsorship from them. In all we raised over £3000, so we gave each of the hospitals £1,000.

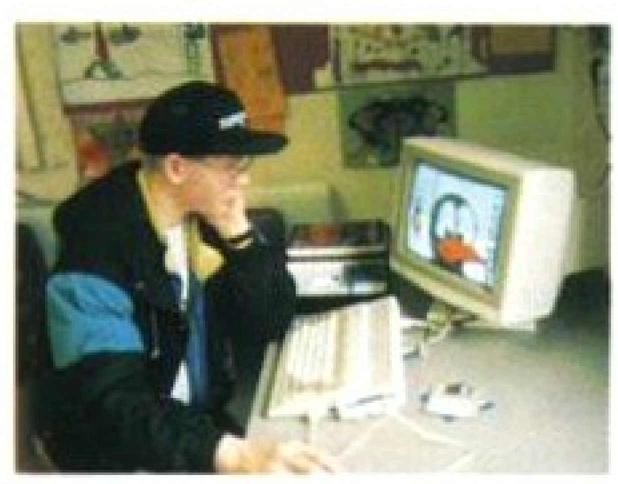
"I think that this is the best idea that came up. The other hospitals went for TVs and videos, but this is a project that can be extended and serves a useful purpose. Hopefully we're going to do a big thing again next year and raise more money."

Mike's aim is to get an Amiga in every children's ward in the country. With about 1,000 wards in total, it's a hell of a goal; but with 15 wards under his belt he certainly has the determination. So if you're young and worried about going into hospital – don't be, it's not as frightening as it may seem...



Kerry-Ann Sicard, aged 9, gets a small amount of tuition in Deluxe Paint from Amiga Format's ever-friendly staff writer.

SO WHO EXACTLY IS HARRY ANYWAY?



Chris Blackwell, creator of Harry, p-p-picks up a penguin...

Chris Blackwell is a self-taught computer artist, whose work was featured way back in *Amiga Format* 21, when he was but a youngster of 13. He uses an Amiga running *Deluxe Paint* and *Scala* to create his slideshows, each starring a character called Harry, who receives an injury and is subsequently admitted to a children's hospital.

At the moment two shows are available, *Harry gets a Stitch* and *Harry has a Bloodtest*, soon a third will be added, entitled *Amy has a Fracture*. When a child is admitted to hospital with a similar injury, he or she can play the slideshow and find out exactly what happens to Harry under the circumstances.

The presentation helps kids realise hospitals aren't such worrying places after all.



The opening screen of Harry's second adventure.



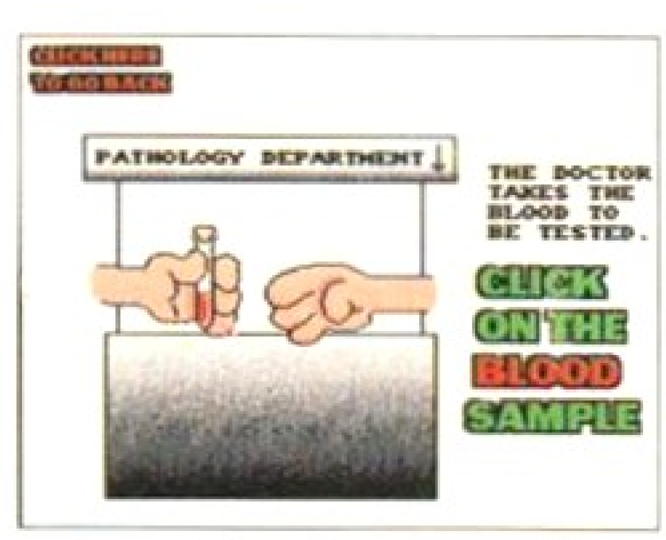
He's feeling a little under the weather, so click on his head...



...visiting the doc is much better when you can laugh at his tie.



The nurse takes a sample of Harry's blood, so they can take it to...



...the Pathology department for several diagnostic tests.

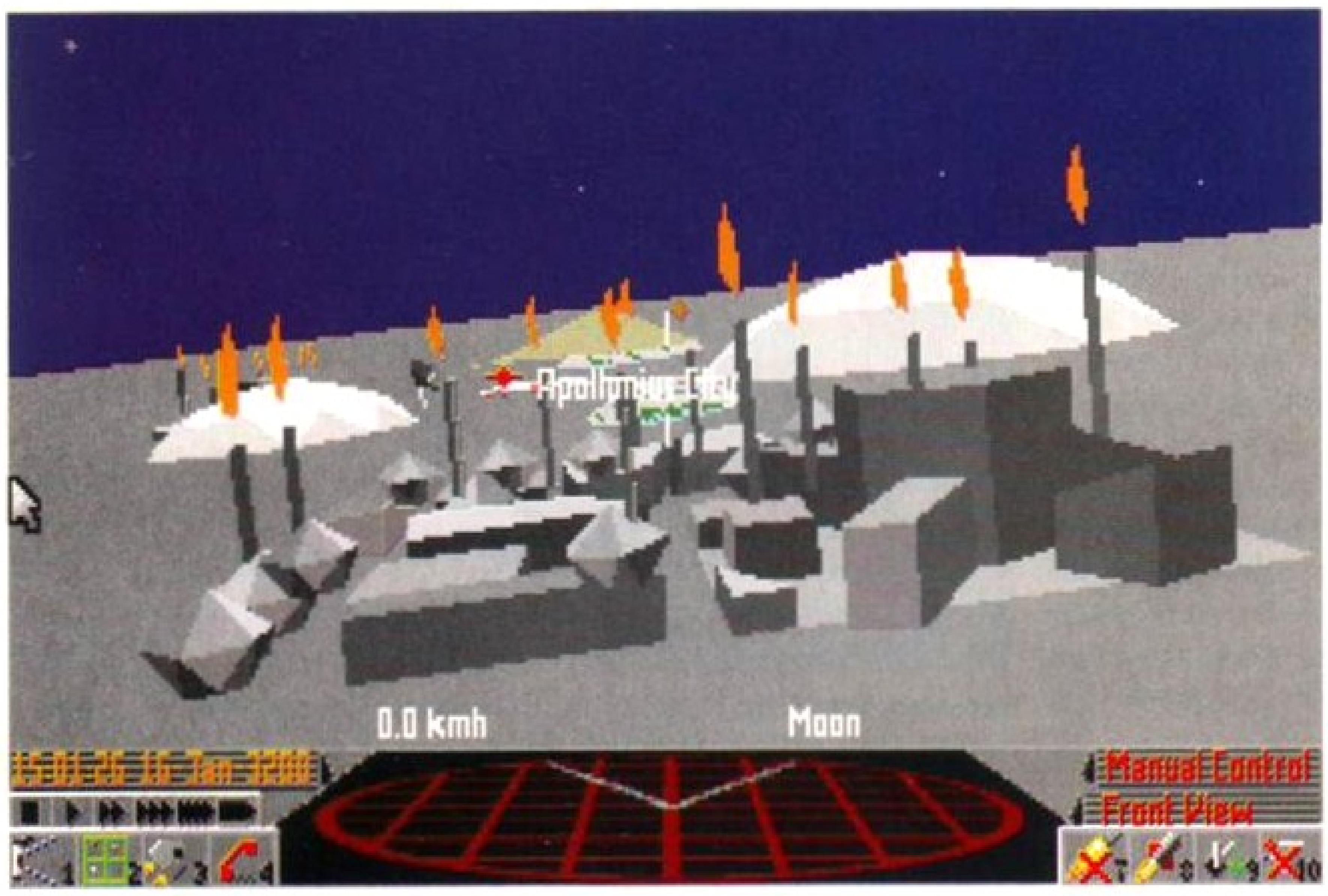


Fortunately Harry's not too ill, so the doc gives him some medicine. Hooray!

Intrepid staff writer **Andy Nuttall** ventures into the deepest corners of Hertfordshire to bring you an inside view of Frontier, The Sequel To Elite...

The Final Frontier





As you fly across the Moonbase, the detail of *Frontier* becomes more apparent. Notice the fire shooting out of the chimney stacks, and the flat lunar domes in the distance.

ONE OF THE most eagerly awaited games this summer has to be *Frontier*. And now ***Amiga Format*** can bring you the most up-to-date information about what could be the biggest game ever – literally!

The sequel to what was one of the biggest computer games ever (*Elite*) is just a matter of weeks away from completion. Although programmer David Braben has been working on the project for four years, he has only recently injected some playability into it, and luckily I've managed to spend a day actually playing the game. Like *Elite* it's not an easy game to play at first, so most of your initial time is spent getting to grips with your spaceship – and it's only after playing the game for a few hours that you really get a feel for the size and scope of it. It really is vast.

For those of you who don't know, the original *Elite* put you in the shoes of Peter Jameson, a space pilot in charge of a Cobra Mk III. This was a spacecraft with a reasonable cargo space, and huge potential in terms of blasting-everything-in-sight. With this ship, and a small amount of credits, your task was to roam the eight galaxies in the game, shooting enemies and trading to make money.

Frqntier will cast you as Commander Jameson's grandson, whose career as a space trader is given a boost after being left a spaceship in his father's will. Like its predecessor, *Frontier* will give you a small amount of information about the gameplay, and leave you to work the rest out for yourself. The scope is so great that it enables you to take one of many roles: you can play a trader, a bounty hunter, a pirate, a smuggler – basically, you name it, you can play it.

While *Elite* had a little over 2,000 planets for you to explore – an enormous amount for a BBC microcomputer with 32K of memory – *Frontier* has 100,000,000,000 (that's one-hundred billion) planets. These are contained within one galaxy, which contains thousands of separate solar systems, each containing between 0-and-60 planets. David fully intends to produce other galaxies for future add-ons to the original game.

When you begin there are around 100,000 planets which all have their own names and details, you must venture out and discover the rest for yourself. As well as individual details, many of the planets also have individual surface detail, so land, oceans, atmosphere and so on can be clearly visible from space.

The vector polygons which make up the details are light-sourced, so depending on your position and the position of the sun, the planets are lit realistically. Also, David has managed to include curved polygons into the game with no loss of speed, so spaceships now have shapely wings instead of the dart shapes they had in *Elite*, and planets are elliptical instead of perfect spheres.

The most impressive aspect of the game, though, is that wherever possible, every detail of the known universe is accurately mapped. This means that our solar system looks and behaves exactly as it does in real-life, and David has researched in detail, the size and behaviour of other solar systems and galaxies. As well as being a good blast, an intellectual trading game, or whatever else you want it to be, *Frontier* can also be a good teaching aid for astronomy – so kids really can learn and play at the same time. Phew!

So, given all this detail, the number of planets, the amount of colours, the sound effects, it must take up a huge amount of memory – right? Well, no, not at all. *Frontier* will almost certainly be supplied on a single disk, and will run on every Amiga with at least 1Mb of memory – wow!

David explains: "Most games nowadays are less than 50K in size, and the rest is taken up with sprites and background graphics. People forget that there's an enormous amount of space on one floppy disk, and a lot of them think that the number of disks reflect the size of the game – which just isn't true. The original *Elite* was only 22K in total, and that had 2,000 different planets."

There has been plenty of hype over the last year about *Frontier*, but you can now take it from *Amiga Format* that it's not only as impressive to look at as it has always promised to be, but it plays like an absolute dream. This is as close to virtual reality as you're going to get without putting on a weird helmet. It's big, and it really will be on your screen soon!

Frontier – The Sequel To Elite will be released by Konami in early June. Contact Konami on 081 429 2446.



An unnamed ship flies out of the Titan City space station. The curved spaceship wings can easily be seen, which involves no loss of speed, apparently.



Now that's what I *call* a space station! The sheer size of it is difficult to judge until you try to fly through the centre – it's massive.

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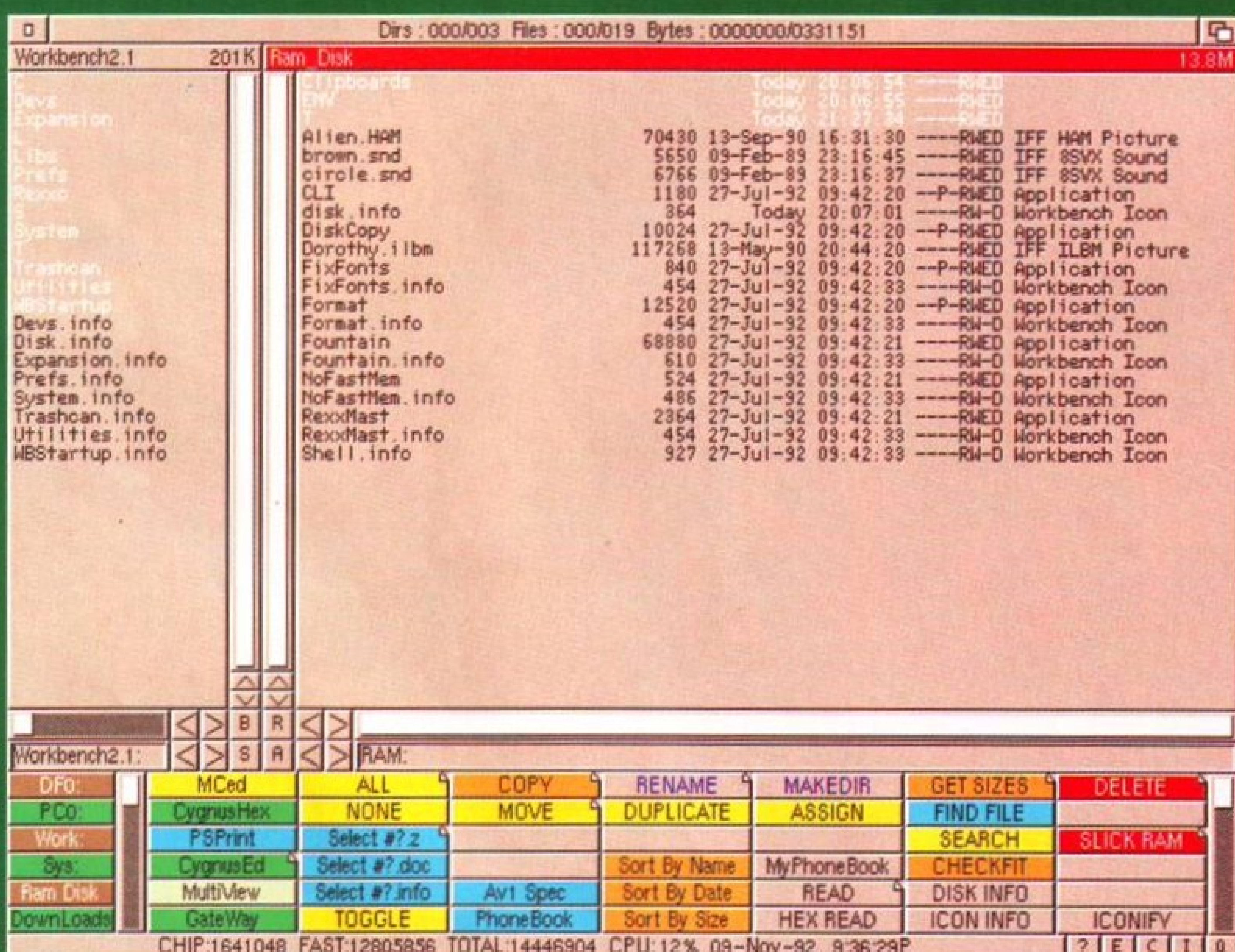
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Imagine being able to get inside your computer's memory, imagine being able to pull down a menu with your outstretched arm. You're imagining Cyberspace... step inside.

Adventures in Cyberspace

Computers have changed the world more than anyone would dare imagine – anyone except authors of fiction known as Cyberpunk, who saw technological advancement and social decay coming, years ago! **Marcus Dyson** looks at Cyberpunk's chilling vision of the future in film, music, lifestyle and more…

"THE FUTURE'S SO bright I gotta wear shades." Thus spake the Timbuk 3, although we can be sure that their intonation was tinged with irony, and their tongues were firmly implanted within their cheeks at the time. I mean, when did anything ever get better? When did unemployment ever go down (without some new government book cooking scheme)? When did pollution ever decrease? When did crime figures ever fall, year on year? When did our currency ever increase in value on the foreign exchange markets? When did the cost of living ever go down?

Oh yes, the future, we've all got to live in it… no choice. You're there now, in fact. But the way things are going, it may not be the shiny utopia *Logan's Run* led us to believe. Let your imagination free and accompany us on a trip into one of many possible futures.



I woke early to the dull *crump* of explosions – riots in the prole sectors! I expect they'd hacked their way out of VR again. No problem, Security would quell them in no time. Sure, they'd mostly be killed, but it all helps the overpopulation problem. If only the non-skills would realise they are better off in cyberspace than here in actual reality, even if they are in a limited-pleasure environment. My head was thudding from the hours of neural jacking and the stimulants I'd done the previous day. The sleepless night hadn't helped – should've remembered to do some downers. I pushed my hand into the SimStim recess beneath the sleep notch and felt the sting of the needle-less injection. Pain relief came quickly.

Today was not a day to be relished. Today I was going to have to go Outside. A capsule may be perfect, but you can't stay in there all your life – not unless you are very lucky, or very rich. I gazed 'out' of my window screen. Over the Grand Canyon the sun was rising. It was beautifully modelled. Sad to think that the Colorado nowadays ran putrid slime through this joyous vista. Behind me a blizzard was raging on top of Pte Chammoisiere. Through the snow, Mt Blanc was just visible in the distance. The sun and the snow – I'd always liked the contradiction, so much so I paid the extra for twin PanaModels. No good putting it off any longer. My appointment at Justice Central was noon. I had 78 minutes to make surface and cover the mile and a half to ComSec pyramid. It was time to get a move on.

Continued overleaf

I found my mask under the console. It was stiff from disuse. I hadn't had cause to go Outside for around six years – I hadn't left my capsule for seven months, and I didn't particularly wish to now.

They did say you could still survive on top without a mask, but I didn't want to put the theory to the test, and surface was no place to get short of breath. It was going to be bad enough avoiding the traffic long enough to make it to a cab, never mind struggling for air in the middle of a 24 lane highway. It could be dangerous – it *was* dangerous up there.

No one knew how many people got involved in RTAs, but it was lots. Traffic moving at maximum velocity at optimum density was difficult to avoid, and if the driver was asleep it was unlikely he would over-ride the TrafficNet. I jacked onto News and downloaded the radiation figures. If they were high I'd have to hire a suit before I made top. They weren't. Thanks for small mercies. I hit the hatch release and stepped out into the corridor.

It's not a pretty picture, is it? If the future really is like that, wouldn't you want a device that let you travel, work, socialise, play and even have sex (the recreational rather than procreational variety) all from the safety of your own 'Capsule'? Of course you would!

But what if we've got it all wrong? What if the future is a paradise? What if world peace prevails? What if all illness and famine are vanquished? What if the quality of broadcast TV reaches an acceptable standard? Wouldn't you still want all the benefits of a technologically advanced future? Wouldn't you still want to be able to travel, work, socialise, play and have sex from your own home? We would!

The form of fiction that postulates the possibility of a technologically advanced, but socially decrepit future is called Cyberpunk. It accepts as inevitable the effects that computer and other technologies will have on our life, but it offers no optimism as to the effect they will have on society.

Cyberpunk is the fiction of the future, and the culture of the computer. Computer owners are at the forefront of the movement which will become the Cyberpunk future. There is no place in Cyberspace for those who are afraid of technology. There is no room for those who cannot program a video recorder. Your Amiga is your key to being part of this future.

Cyberpunk as a cultural movement began with the writings of William Gibson. *Neuromancer*, *Burning Chrome* – these novels were merely science fiction, written by a man who had the imagination to see the Cyberpunk future but not the computer knowledge to create it. Gibson saw a society in the thrall of computers – in part run by computers, a society where the interchange of data is the yardstick by which civilisation is measured. Although the Cyberpunk future is a society with all the advantages of technology, it is also a society of avarice, a society of violence, a society of greed. And the outlaws of this society are the Cyberspace Cowboys, hackers who

Continued overleaf

Virtual reality



© Syndication International Ltd

Virtual reality has caused excitement on many levels. At its most simple it is the interactive video games appearing across the world. W Industries machines are a simple, effective application of VR, and fun to play. Best of all, their machines are just expanded Amiga 3000s. At the other end of the spectrum, VR is a way of offering corporate solutions or military training.

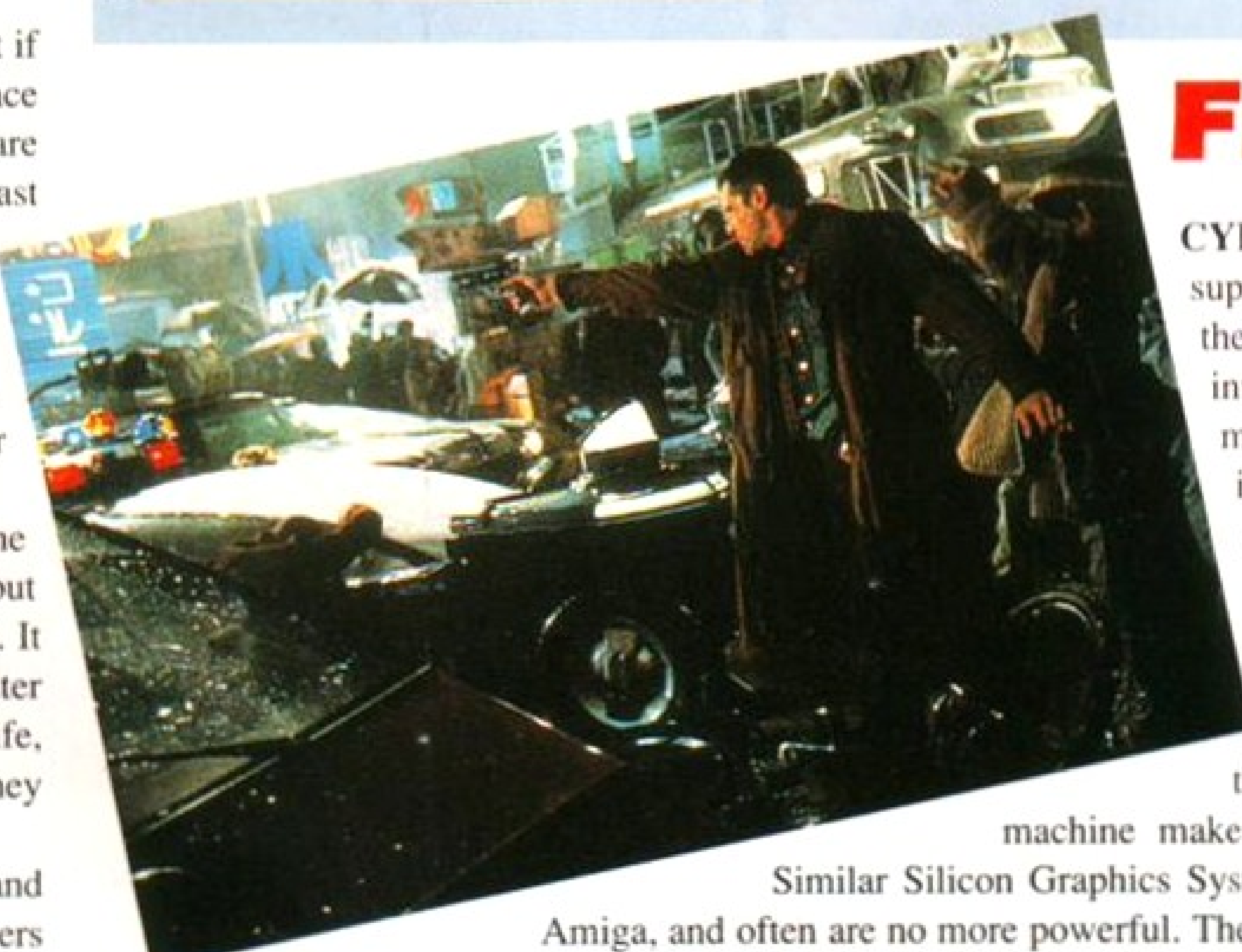
The concept behind VR is that you model a 3D environment, then place the operator inside it. If we accept Cyberspace as the memory of the computer, VR is a kind of Graphical User Interface for it. The system, at present anyway, requires you to wear special apparatus so that the position of your body can be detected and input into the computer. Future systems will probably involve suits that not only act as input devices, but give feedback too. Imagine a shoot-'em-up where if you get hit from behind, your clothing applies pressure to the area of your back where you are hit.

Of course when physical stimuli are concerned, it doesn't take long before people start considering sex, and a whole area of VR research is devoted to the subject of remote sex. This subject is called Teledildonics. Imagine a future where you can have relations with your partner even though they are on the other side of the world, or have clean, safe casual sex with someone you never even have to meet. The networking charges will be paid for in the money you save from not buying your partner drinks.

Travel is another area that would be revolutionised by VR. Why travel when you can just 'be there' in the comfort of your own home? Of course purists will cry "It's not the same though, is it?". But Cyberpunk fiction predicts a future where VR is not accessed wearing a cumbersome suit, but by direct connection of the human neural networks to the computer via electrodes worn on the body. If that ever happens, VR might not be the same as the real thing, but no-one will be able to tell them apart.

If you think putting a condom on is a chore, wait till you experience sex in the future, this Cyber-sex suit is like wearing one big condom... probably.

Films



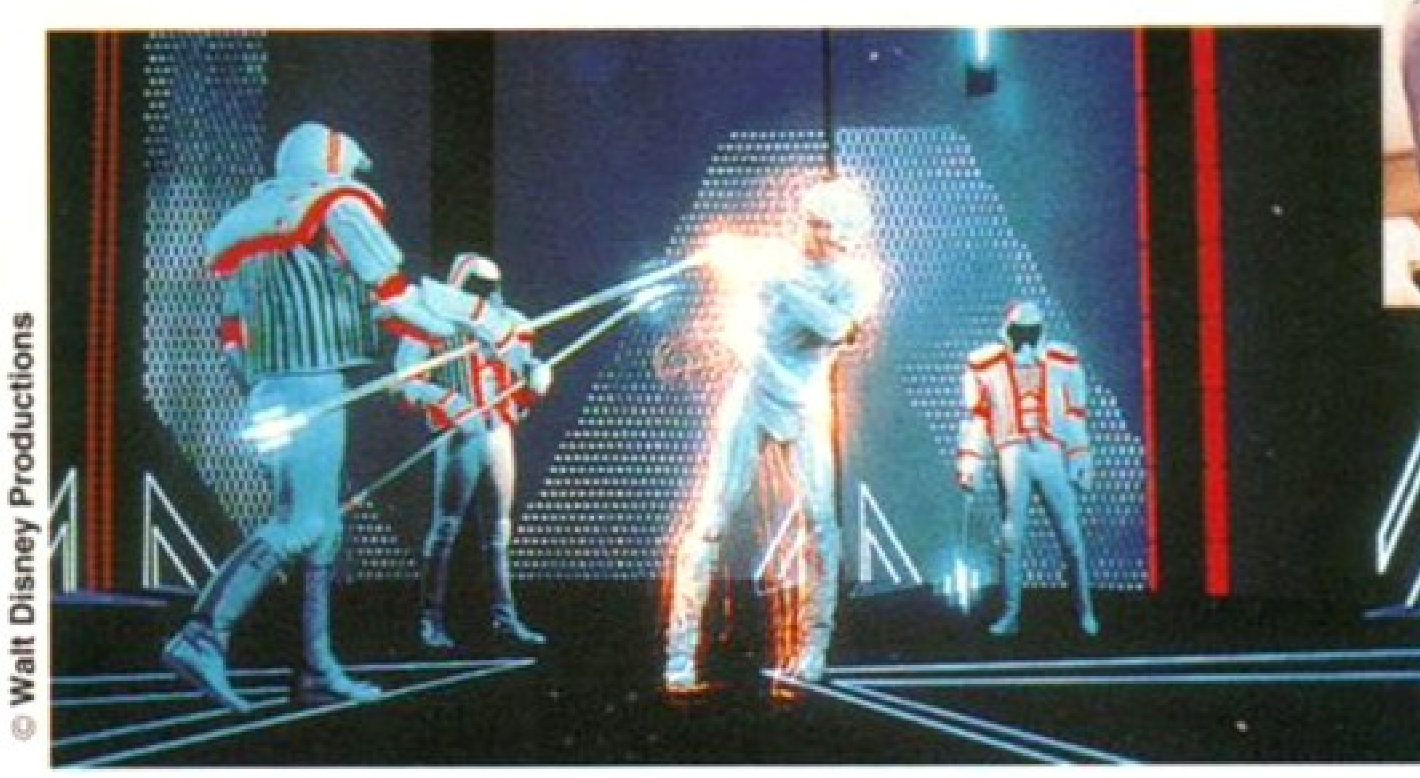
Gibson's chilling future vision has never been so well realised as in Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*.

CYBERPUNK SUBJECTS LEND themselves superbly to the visual media – the themes are often the classic science fiction themes, the technology is invariably newer and shinier (though often with more than a hint of tarnish round the edges). There is an argument that any science fiction movie could be classed as Cyberpunk, but those with central themes involving computer networks, a technology-dominated society and social decay are more true to the genre.

The Amiga is taking a front seat in films these days; the effects and processing power of the machine make it a firm favourite in post-production houses. Similar Silicon Graphics Systems or 'Harrys' cost many times as much as an Amiga, and often are no more powerful. The makers of the new Warners sci-fi series *Babylon 5* didn't bother building lots of models of spaceships and then filming them using a panning camera motion, as they would have had to do only a few years ago. Instead they modelled all the spacecraft inside a computer and created them in Cyberspace. Guess which computer they used? An Amiga of course.



***Wargames* showed just how serious the consequences of a bad hack could be.**



© Walt Disney Productions

In Cyberspace virus protection programs could well manifest themselves as American football players, if you're the virus this can only be seen as a bad thing.

Last year *Lawnmower Man* made big claims about being the first-ever virtual reality movie, and while it was an excellent movie and addressed the central issues of Cyberpunk and virtual reality (including Teledildonics), it was preceded by some years by the Disney movie *Tron*. Although



As technology advances it will not be necessary to go to the lengths that The Lawnmower Man went to in order to jack in to Cyberspace.

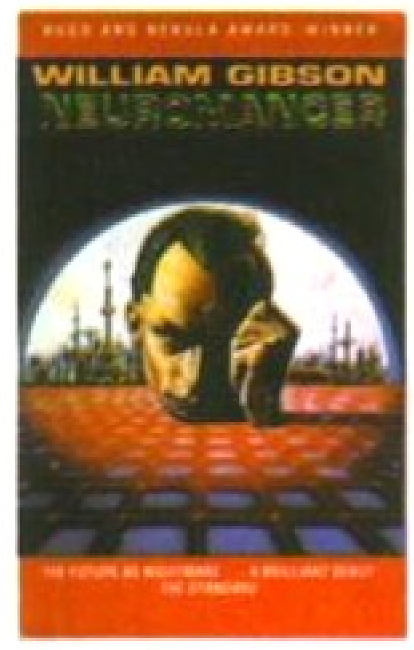


Often overlooked as a Virtual Reality classic, Disney's *Tron* had all the Cyberpunk credentials. Including a hostile Artificial Intelligence.

Reading matters

NEUROMANCER, COUNT ZERO, MONA LISA OVERDRIVE, BURNING CHROME, THE DIFFERENCE ENGINE

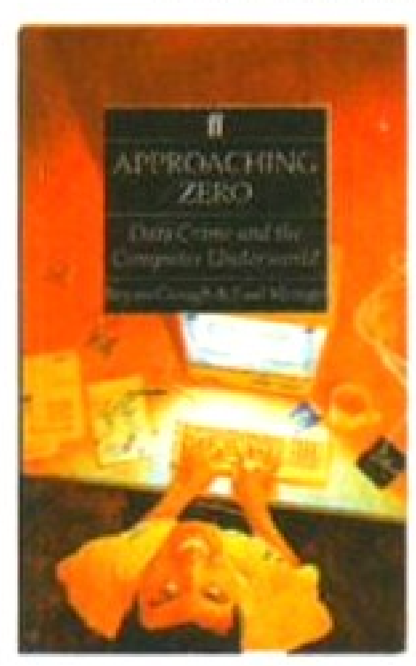
AUTHOR : WILLIAM GIBSON



Gibson is *the* Cyberpunk author. It was he who coined the term, and his stories created many of the other terms and phrases that regularly appear in Cyberspeak. His Cyberspace series *(Neuromancer, Count Zero, Mona Lisa Overdrive)* created the world of Cyberpunk, where people no longer look forward to a bright future, but are more interested in getting what they can out of the present. He's recently moved on from Cyberspace with his most recent novel *The Difference Engine,* which explores a world where the computer age began a hundred years earlier, through the work of Charles Babbage.

APPROACHING ZERO:

BRYAN CLOUGH & PAUL MUNGO



There is little fiction in this book, but it's still fun. It has been fairly well researched, from many different archives, and deals with the exploitation of technology for the individual's ends. Full of anecdotes about real hacking cases, but technically not demanding and so easy reading.

MIRRORSHADES - THE CYBERPUNK ANTHOLOGY

EDITED BY BRUCE STERLING

A collection of stories by Lewis Shiner, Greg Bear, Bruce Sterling and others. Just to prove there is more to Cyberpunk than Gibson (though he does make an appearance), a selection of stories which explore various other aspects of the ethos.

THE HACKER CRACKDOWN

AUTHOR : BRUCE STERLING

An in-depth exploration of the Hacker phenomenon, and the backlash by the powers that be against it. Sterling looks into the motivations and actions of hacking groups such as the Phantom Access Associates, and the crackdown by the US Justice department and Secret Service.

WIRED



This is not the UK-based music magazine, but the American magazine that's in love with technology. It's hard to get hold of over here, but the issue we've seen has some fascinating articles on portable phone hackers and the US Army's virtual reality war-simulator system. Try asking for it at one of the larger newsagents, and quote the ISSN number 1059-1028.

THE HACKER FILES (COMIC)

WRITER : LEWIS SHINER

Although comms and hacking may not appear to be the most visual of subjects, Shiner has managed to create an intriguing story about the hacker subculture which is absorbing and only vaguely fictional. Recommended.

RICHARD BAGULEY

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

- Akira
- Tetsuo - The Iron Man
- Metropolis
- Silent Running
- Terminator 2
- Hardware
- Sneakers
- Until the end of the World
- Blade Runner
- Tron
- Lawnmower Man
- Soylent Green
- Mad Max
- Brainstorm
- Wargames

the terms Cyberpunk and virtual reality were not common parlance at the time, the movie is undoubtedly set in Cyberspace. An evil artificial intelligence draws the protagonist into the machine, where he has to do battle in a virtual environment. *Tron* was not a smash hit, but it was ahead of its time and could have come from the pen of William Gibson himself.

Cyberpunk slang at a glance

Any new area has new words, and Cyberpunk is no exception. Just check out these 'technical' terms so that you can make yourself understood in the near future.

Console - A way of describing your computer. In this context the term does not refer to Sega or Nintendo machines, neither of which can be any use at all for 'jacking' into Cyberspace.

Cracking - Using coding skills to break the protection of a database, or software to enable you to get access to the data or copy the program.

Cyberpunk - Technological reactionaries who believe in the 'Hacker Ethic' that 'Information wants to be free'. Cyberpunks see technology as a way to gain access to the information that is the basis of power. Networks open up the power of the centralist elites to anyone with an Amiga and a modem – and a good deal of ingenuity and patience.

Cyberpunk is also the term for the fiction of William Gibson and those who followed after him. It is our fiction, built on the technology of your Amiga and the sociology of our present times. It is the first form of culture to embrace and worship the technology that is an intrinsic part of our everyday lives.

Cyberspace - The fictional name for the virtual reality world which exists in the networks of all the linked computer systems worldwide. Cyberspace's real world analogue is Worldnet – they are one in the same thing.

Hacking - Gaining unauthorised access to a remote computer system.

Jacking - Logging on to Cyberspace; connecting your Amiga to another computer system by means of a modem and comms software.

Microsofts - Software implants on microchip.

Modem - Short for 'Modulator/Demodulator', a device that enables computers to 'talk' to one another via the telephone network.

Phreaking - Gaining telephone services for free.

Virtual Reality - A three-dimensional environment created within the computer which it is possible to 'jack' into and interact with in the same way that one interacts with the real world (or at least very similar ways). Virtual Reality is the Graphical User Interface of Cyberspace.

use their computers to jack in to the vast global network of computer systems. Does this sound a lot like the late 20th century to you? It is! Read on…

In the early Sixties, several technically capable, socially tuned-in American youths discovered that the Bell telephone company controlled the routing and billing of telephone calls using a series of audible tones of specific frequencies. It took no time for these youngsters to find a way of building 'blue boxes' that replicated those tones, and soon it was common for the American student in possession of one of these 'blue boxes' to be able to make telephone calls anywhere in the country without paying for the privilege. The people who understood and exploited this technique were called 'phone phreakers'. They were the first hackers, the first individuals to ever gain unauthorised access to a remote computer system. They didn't know it, but they had just invented Cyberpunk. They had just changed the course of the future of the human race.

The idea of linked computer networks is central to Cyberpunk fiction, and since the early Sixties the world has become a bigger and more convoluted computer network. Thousands of independent and local networks are connected to hundreds of national networks, which are in turn linked to dozens of global networks. Together they all make the 'Worldnet', the real-life Cyberspace. With the right security clearance an Amiga owner can wander to any country and talk to any networked computer user. The Amiga is no slouch when it comes to comms – in fact the first-ever conviction for hacking was made against an Amiga owner (see the boxout on this page titled 'Datacrime').

Hackers, or at least some of them, believe in a 'hacker ethic', based on the principle that 'Information wants to be free'. They believe that access to any information stored on a computer network should be granted to all who have the technology to obtain it. Their ethic extended to say that it was all right to look, but not to touch. Hackers were pioneers at the technological cutting edge. Interest, not avarice, was their motivation. Discovery, not destruction, was their goal.

At first the law was in no position to prevent unauthorised computer access. And it's hard to find evidence of having been hacked, especially by a competent hacker, especially when you're not looking for it. SysOps (the custodians of a network) were not expecting visitors, and at first visitors were uncommon. Early hackers needed access to a networked computer system, and in those days that was a mainframe or 'mini' computer. (Don't get confused by the name – minis wouldn't fit on a desktop, they fill an entire room.) The real revolution in hacking came with the invention of the micro computer, and of course the modem.

Nowadays Cyberpunk has become a full-blown cultural phenomenon – in books, films, magazines, computer programs, even nightclubs. Born of computer technology, it feeds on that technology in a never-ending spiral, onwards and upwards into a future so bright

Datacrime

The 'Mad Hacker', Nick Whitely, had a problem. He just couldn't leave ICL mainframe computers alone. It wasn't enough to work in the day, making sure there was enough magnetic tape and paper for the printers. He wanted to get in the driving seat and explore.

Trouble is, ICLs (the small UK equivalent of IBMs) cost lots – £1 million for the top-of-the-range 3980, used by many universities and believed to be used in government Intelligence systems. So Whitely used his Amiga A1000, a relatively slow modem, and *The Hacker's Handbook* to start going through JANET, the gateway system used by research establishments.

He did it too. And a lot of experience from his donkey work during the day helped him on his nocturnal ICL expeditions. There are three reasons for hackers working at night: the phone calls are cheaper; the phone lines are less busy and quieter; and the target computers are unmanned.

Until 1985, Scotland Yard's Computer Crime Unit consisted of just one officer. Even at the time of the Mad Hacker's runs, just four officers were trying to combat the datacrime of a whole industrialised nation. However, the fact that ICLs – the machines possibly used in top-secret government systems – were being systematically broken open sent alarm bells ringing in high places. The Mad Hacker never targeted these sensitive systems, though it is possible that he intended to.

After Whitely had been hacking six months, an arrest team of 40 police officers and specialists knocked on his front door with a warrant. At that time (pre '90) hacking wasn't illegal. He was charged with criminal damage, relating to the time that his ICL targets took to be brought online after he (rarely) crashed them.

But ICLs are expensive – the figures involved were over £25,000. After a two-year court case, Nick was found guilty on four lesser counts relating to disk damage. He was sentenced to a year in prison, but only served two months in Brixton and Wandsworth. His case almost certainly brought about the criminalisation of hacking – in the "Computer Misuse Act" of 1990.

More recently, Paul Bedworth was charged with



The Lawnmower man ends with Jobe hacking everything, big deal! It seems real life hackers already have.

Cyberpunk – ethos into fashion



Being a Cyberpunk isn't just about owning a modem and seeing *Blade Runner* 20 times, you can make a fashion statement too!

NEW REALMS OF technological entertainment have been spawned by Cyberpunk, including Virtual Reality, Quazar and databases linked into a network not too far removed from Gibson's Cyberspace, but in fact the Cyberpunk fashion subculture goes further than merely giving us more high-tech toys to play with.

There are conflicting ideas about Cyberpunk fashion. On the one hand those involved in *haute-couture* have taken the technological ideology literally, producing dresses and other clothing incorporating silicon chips, PCBs and wires. These seem to be a glamourised view of the ethos, with models wandering around looking like extras from a dodgy sci-fi film.

The other side of Cyberpunk was first felt in Ridley Scott's films *Alien* and *Blade Runner*. Although these appeared before Gibson coined the term, they show a future where technology has advanced in all manner of ways but the degeneration of lifestyles in the late 20th century has continued: buildings are run down; dirt, smog and grime fill the streets and many people find themselves in a struggle between humanity and machinery.

This side of Cyberpunk fashion is accordingly aggressive-looking, clued-up and ready to abuse the technology any way it sees fit. Cyberpunks often have harsh hairstyles (either severe crew-cuts or long thrash-freak locks), leather jackets, militaristic footwear and adornments such as industrial band logos, metallic badges, bondage straps, earrings and futuristic sunglasses. All these elements go together (with a touch of that 'distressed' look – ripped jeans, beaten-up boots and jackets, stubble) to make a harsh-looking yet somehow futuristic persona, balancing industry, technology, military and human struggles.

For real Cyberpunks, everything they do has roots in the Cyberpunk ethos – the music they listen to, their work, their hobbies, all reflect both the technology of the future and the decline of the Western world. This is obvious in the music – also known as hard-beat, heavy techno (before the dance market usurped the term) or industrial. It has a very technological sound – sequencers, synthesizers, samplers, computers and so on – but the same could be said for modern dance music. The thing about Cyberpunk music is its aggressive, industrial sound: a hammering beat, powerful rapid-fire bassline, and often a harsh, angry-sounding vocal and cut-up film and radio voices.

Belgium's Front 242 were one of the first bands that fit into the style: their singles *Headhunter*, *Never Stop* and *Masterhit* all have a very precise futuristic edge, but with a dark and violent colouring. Two Canadian bands

obtaining telecommunication services dishonestly, conspiracy to cause unauthorised modification in computer material and conspiracy to secure unauthorised access to computer material, after Leeds University began monitoring their lines as a result of excessive hacker activity. Bedworth was acquitted after his brief offered a plea of addiction to hacking. The verdict is a cause of some concern to network administrators, as it seems to give a green light to unauthorised computer access.

Whether we as a magazine choose to endorse the hacker ethic or not – and we cannot be seen to incite hacking – everyone must be aware of the dangers. Stealthy as any hacker may be, completely undetectable entry into a remote computer is impossible. As intruders make their first tentative steps around the system, they may cause inadvertent fatal damage. Remember how many important systems depend on computer control. Imagine accidentally deleting patient drug records in a hospital computer, for example.

The moral is: if you must hack, tread lightly. If hackers really do want to present themselves as 'techno-anarchists', they must remember that anarchy calls for decentralisation of authority without getting in anyone else's face, much less causing death or injury.

PAT McDONALD

are perhaps the extreme version of Cyberpunk music: Skinny Puppy create heavy, pounding music, with vocalist Nivek Ogre's guttural rantings evoking a feeling of decline and desperation, and Frontline Assembly's trademarks are brutal rhythms and pounding basslines, liberally mixed with vocal film samples and almost religious-sounding orchestral chords.

Both Frontline Assembly and Front 242 rely on the Amiga for much of their imagery: futuristic logos, distorted images and digitised pictures are major elements in the sleeve designs of both bands. Frontline's sleeves are designed on an Amiga, and 242's Patrick Codenys and Daniel Bresanutti actually formed a design company, with T-shirts, posters, logos and sleeves designed using an Amiga 3000, and *Deluxe Paint III* being used for creating video animations for a compilation video.

To create Cyberpunk music and imagery on your Amiga, all you need is a sampler like *Technosound Turbo*, a tracker like *OctaMED*, a simple digitiser and *DPaint*. With time and patience, you could be the next Frontline Assembly!

MAFF EVANS



Cybermusik. These CD sleeves were created on the Amiga. The music inside was created by cyberpunks.

Cyber games

With Cyberpunk's direct relationship to computers, it's not surprising that there are several Amiga games with Cyber references. Here we look at five games containing elements of the Cyberpunk ethos, combining robots, computers and humans...

CYBER RACE

CYBERDREAMS



So you think you can win the Cyber Race? This chap certainly did...

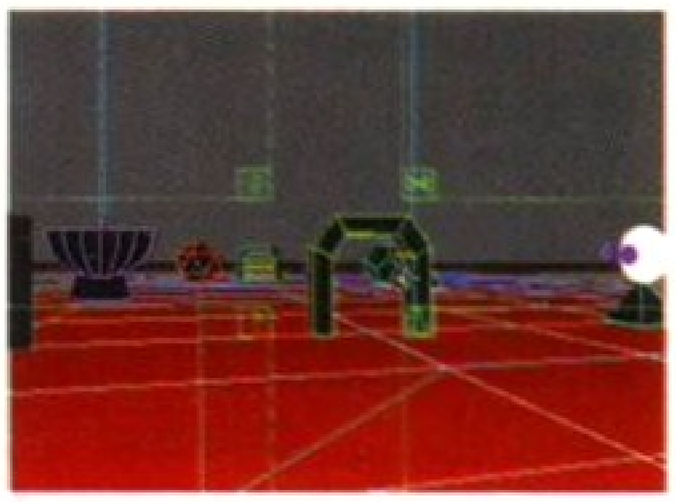
After commissioning *Alien's* H R Giger himself to create the artwork for their first game, *Dark Seed* (*AF*44 – 72 per cent), Cyberdreams' next game will be *Cyber Race*. The big name associated with this game is Syd Mead, the 'industrial designer' noted for his work on major films such as *Blade Runner, 2010, Aliens* and *Tron.*

The game will be based on a futuristic racing circuit, where the finest drivers from across the galaxy compete in a race to the death. Professional actors are to be incorporated into the game using full-motion digitisation, and digitised speech and sound effects will be used throughout the game.

Cyber Race is due to be released in September this year. Contact Cyberdreams on 071-328 3267.

CYBERSPACE

ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL



Don a head-up display and lock yourself into this grid with Cyberspace.

Also due to be released soon, *Cyberspace* is a futuristic RPG based around a huge virtual city created within the Amiga, with no less than 100,000 buildings and over 1 million inhabitants.

You view the world from a first-person perspective view, through a Head-Up-Display on your Amiga monitor screen. The Cyber connections are further complicated by the addition of Cyberspace, a large computer based within the virtual city, which you can log into and enter Cyberspace itself. Phew!

Sound complicated? Well, add into that the promise that the game will let you take virtually any role in the game that you could take in real life, such as private eye, courier or street fighter, and you have one heck of a big game.

It's due for release in September, but before then you can contact EI on 0268 541126.

BENEATH A STEEL SKY

VIRGIN



The artist famous for the graphic novel Watchmen drew this futuristic scene.

Revolution Software, who were made famous by their graphic adventure *Lure of the Temptress* (*AF*36 – 92 per cent), are set to return with a new cyber-adventure called *Beneath a Steel Sky*. It's the story of a man, Robert Foster, who is kidnapped and taken to a strange Cyberpunk-style world, controlled by a computer called LINC. You must help him find his own identity, and the secrets hidden in the world.

For the new game Revolution have teamed up with Dave Gibbons, the acclaimed comic-book artist and author whose most famous work, *Watchmen*, won him a Hugo Award. He'll be providing lots of comic-style artwork for the game. It'll be out in late summer, but contact Virgin on 081 960 2255 for further details.

FLASHBACK

US GOLD/DELPHINE



Don't be fooled by all this jungle scenery, Flashback is definitely Cyberpunk – check out the mutant with the gun.

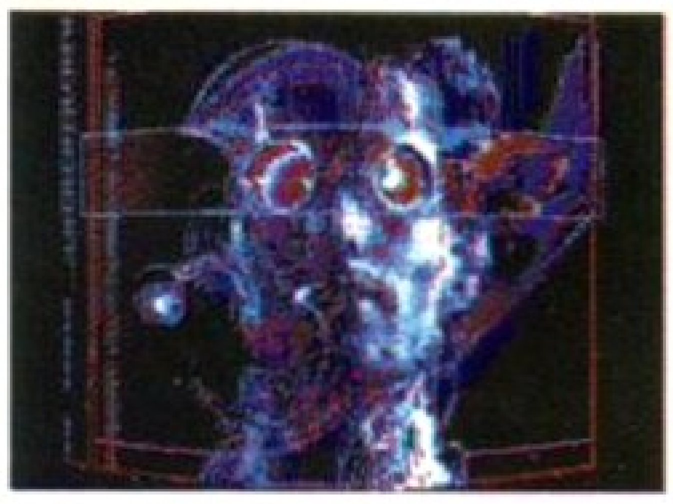
Flashback (*AF*45 – 93 per cent) is the latest game to be released by Delphine Software, previously responsible for the smash hit *Another World* (*AF*31 – 82 per cent). That game had really fluid animation, but no depth to the gameplay. *Flashback* is a huge arcade adventure, for which real-life actors were filmed performing various movements, then incorporated into the gameplay.

The game is set in the future on another planet, where the main character has had his mind erased and must locate his friends and escape. The plot borrows some ideas from many films, including *Total Recall, The Terminator* – in fact, lots of Arnold S movies. It's got an incredible futuristic 'feel', brilliant animation, and a whole host of robots, droids and mutant creatures to blow away with your weapon.

For more info contact US Gold on 021 625 3366.

NEUROMANCER

ELECTRONIC ARTS



Gibson's novel Neuromancer finally makes it to an Amiga near you...

Ah, of course, the most obvious one. The year is 2058, and technology has been advancing at such a rate that everybody is now linked into a single vast computer network. You play a down-and-out cowboy (21st century hacker) who has lost access to the network (Cyberspace), has no money and seemingly no future. You must try to get back into the Cyberspace network, and regain credibility as a cowboy again.

Neuromancer is based on the William Gibson book of the same name, and it achieved 81 per cent way back in *Amiga Format* 14.

ANDY NUTTALL

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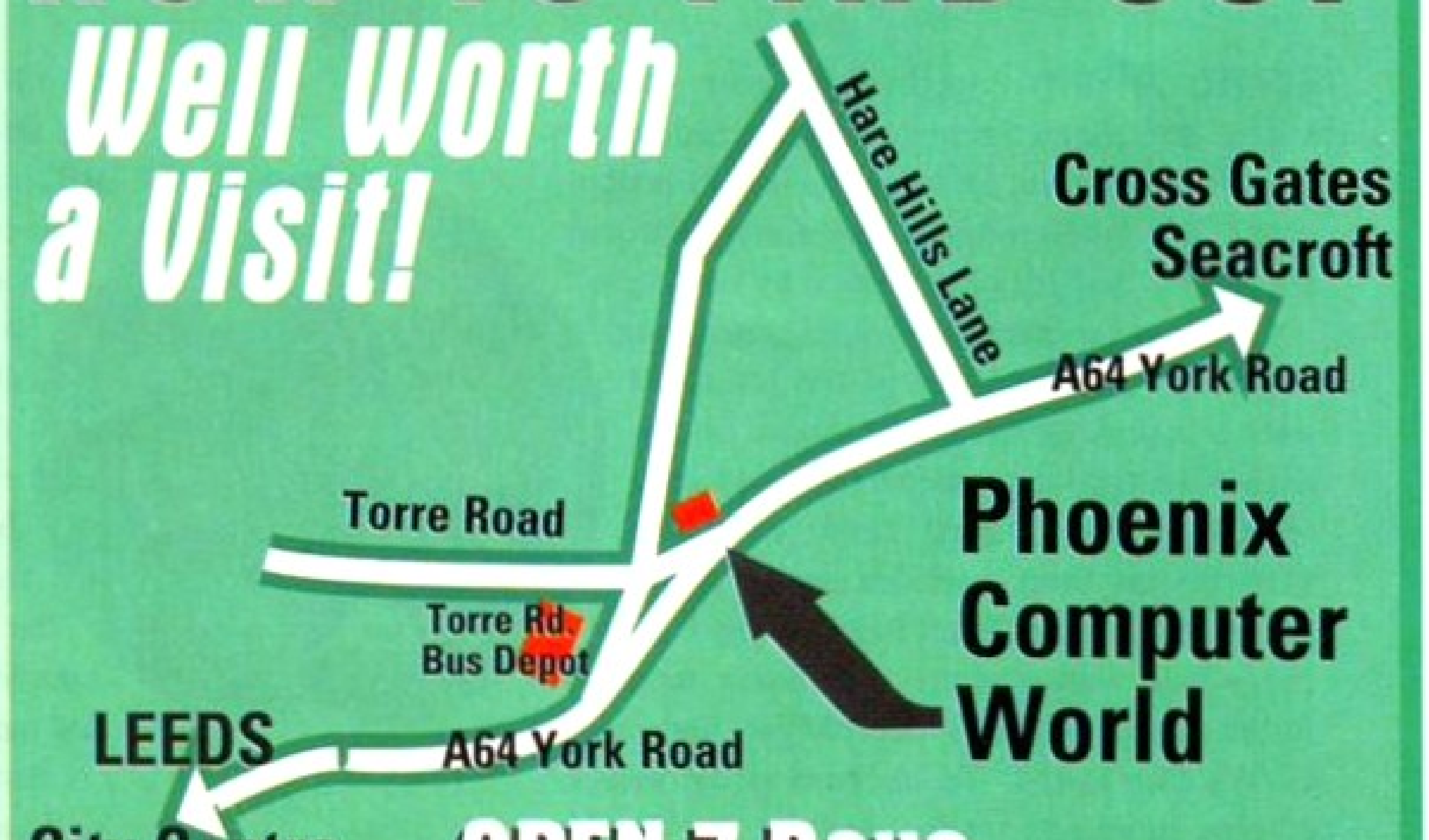
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Still images can never do true justice to morphing, but this picture is about astounding enough to give you the right idea. Morphing works as if the image has been projected onto a very fine sheet of Latex rubber, and the rubber then stretched and distorted. When you first see a morph animated, you'll be wide eyed too.

Morphing is THE technique of the moment, but how does it work and once the novelty has worn off, how much use is it? **Brian Larkman**, and his ever-changing images, studies a new science...

Morphology

UNTIL A FEW months ago, only music-video and Schwarzenegger fans had even heard of morphing let alone seen it in action. Then Mel Smith warped into Kate Adie and the whole country was treated to the latest gimmick in the computer graphics bum-bag of tricks. So far, most of the broadcast uses of morphing have been carried out on expensive high-end systems but, as readers of ***Amiga Format*** will know, morphing software has been available on the Amiga for almost a year. BlackBelt's *ImageMaster* came first with a simple morphing module, followed by ASDG's *MorphPlus* and now GVP's *CineMorph*. To understand the basics of how morphing works, perhaps we should look at some earlier Amiga programs that give hints of what is to come.



Of all graphical tricks, morphing is perhaps the one that just had to wait until computers with sufficient power came along. Right from the early days, the Amiga has had software that could transform one simple object into another, supplying all of the in-between stages or 'tweens'. *Aegis Animator*, the first Amiga animation program, allowed 'vectored' 2D objects to transform between a start and end form, though the in-betweens could be pretty bizarre to the inexperienced! *FantaVision*, produced a couple of years later, developed the same idea and made it work superbly.

Both programs use flat 2D objects similar to those you might draw using *ProDraw* - start and end shapes defined by co-ordinates and vectors rather than bitmaps. When you set the animation going, the computer fills in all of the in-between shapes by stretching the initial shape as if it were a rubber sheet, moving the points and lines of the outline bit-by-bit in each frame.

Taken into true 3D, programs like *Sculpt3D* could do similar tricks, but with realistic shading and materials. The trouble was that, at the time, objects like a human face were too complex to model convincingly in this way, using the standard 68000-based Amiga. Even with the faster machines and powerful modelling and texture mapping software available now, truly realistic morphing of organic objects like the human head is very difficult. The answer is to use bitmap images scanned from real life (or photographs).

Continued on Page 42

Several methods can be used to transform one bitmapped image to another. The obvious technique is cross-fading. Stated simply, you just fade each pixel of one image to the colour of the corresponding pixels in the other image. Film and TV use this method so often that you don't even notice, so something more is needed to produce a dramatic transformation.

Deluxe Paint IV can Tween from one brush to another, fading colours and changing the shape of the outlines at the same time. If the two brushes are reasonably simple the change is quite effective, but complex realistic bitmaps distort dramatically into weird abstract shapes during the tweening. This can be overcome with much tighter control of the warping inside the area of the brush. Programs like *ImageMaster*, *Morph Plus* and *ImageFX* can indeed control distortion over the whole area of an image using an extension of the rubber sheet idea mentioned earlier. (No, of course its not an obsession!!)

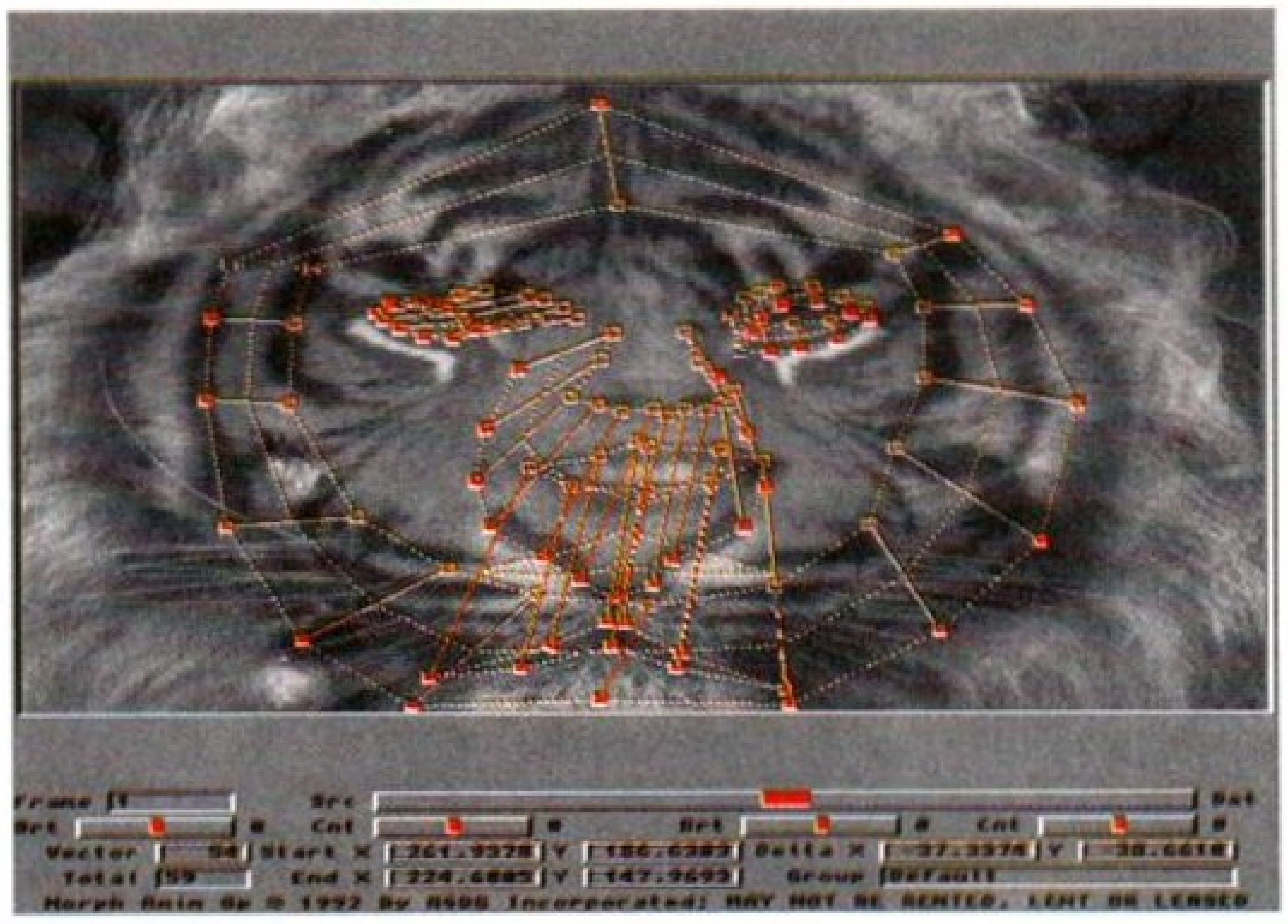
Imagine an image of a tiger's head printed on to a rubber sheet. Key points on the face - around the eyes, mouth and jaw for instance - are caught by a stitch of thread. By carefully pulling these threads the face could be warped out of shape. The elasticity of the sheet would mean that the area around the changed bits would stretch smoothly, the distortion gradually tailing off further from the 'stitch' point.

In both *MorphPlus* and *ImageFX*, a single image can be warped in this way by setting a series of points on an image and moving them. Working with two images however, so that points on one can be matched with suitable positions on the other, the first shape can be made to warp smoothly into the form of the second. It only requires cross-fading to take place at the same time and true cinematic polymorphing occurs… we have morphing.

Morphing has been used predominantly with the human face and body, because these subjects give the most stunning and impressive effects. ASDG have managed to get their *MorphPlus* software into cinematic post production houses, and several of the effects used in this new Warner TV series *Babylon 5* are done using the software. It is another string to the Amiga's bow that broadcast television companies (as opposed to cable who by and large have lower production values) are accepting it as a professional tool, and a way of saving on the high cost of graphic-workstation operator's time.

As with all fashions, the need for this sort of visual trickery will fade away or transform into some other amazing effect. But as with a workman's tool, when he first gets it he may use it all the time, but once he tires of it, it is always there in his toolbox should the need for it arise. Personally I will be glad when TV adverts stop featuring bags of washing powder changing into girlies with perfectly conditioned hair. In the meantime, the tools evolved for morphing faces can be used to transform many other things - imagine a building or natural landscape swelling and metamorphosing into a new or alien environment. The tools are already here on the Amiga. So all it needs is your imagination.

MorphPlus ASDG ■ £199.99



As you are always morphing between two images, all morph modules described here need to use a two screen interface. *MorphPlus* however is unique in using an 'onion skin' system - superimposing the two images using a variable level of cross fade. A slider to control the percentage plus brightness and contrast sliders for source and destination ensure exact fine tuning. This approach means that the whole screen can be used for fine detail - useful when you are using lots of points. In *MorphPlus*, single images can be warped, and pairs of still images, or sequences of moving source and destination images can be morphed.

Available from DMI 0753 666000

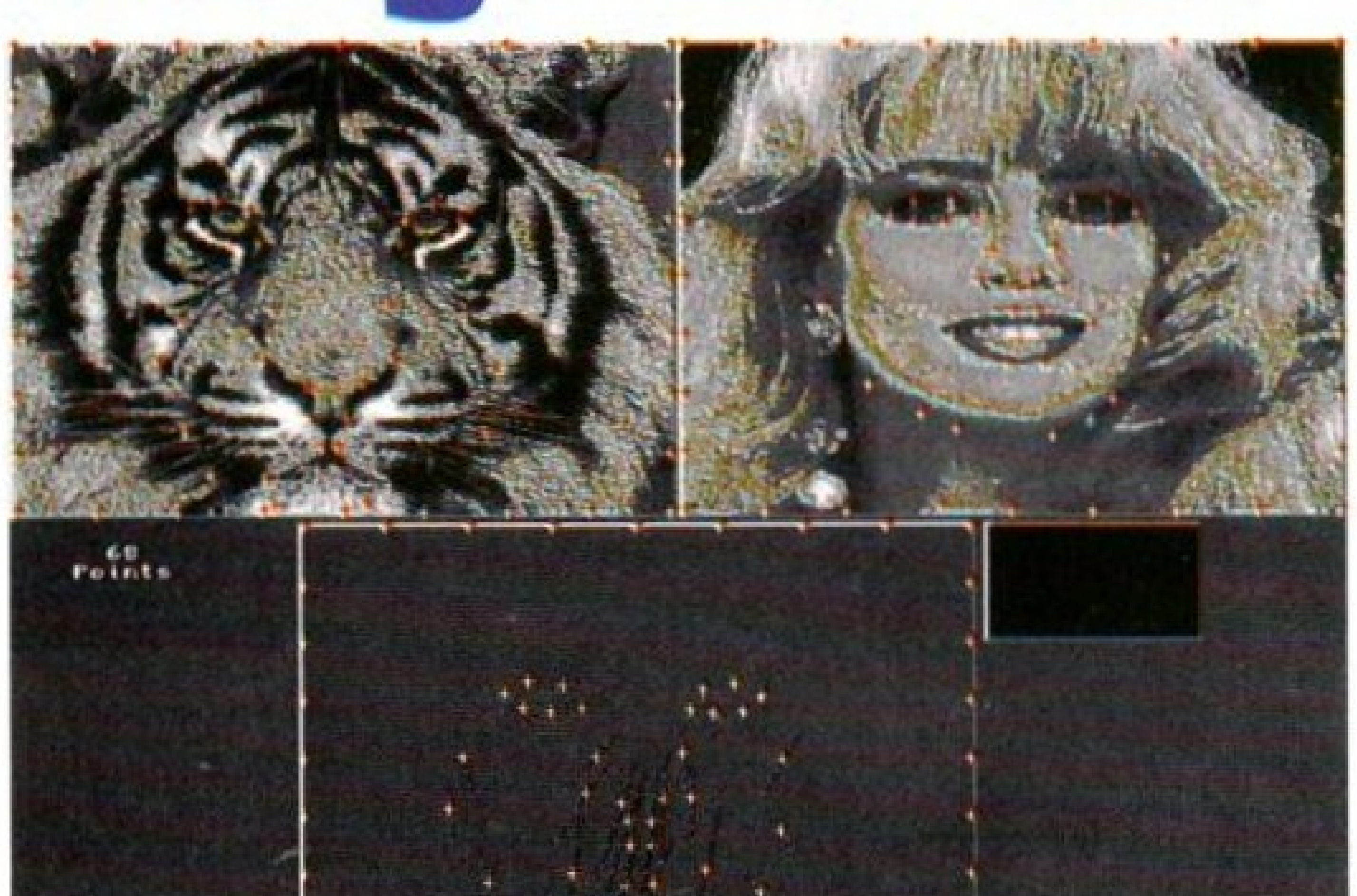
CineMorph Great Valley Products ■ £99.95



***CineMorph* comes as a stand-alone package or as a 'hook' or module to be used within ImageFX. It is designed, like *MorphPlus*, for use by film and television professionals. Single image warps, dual image morphs, and full motion sequence morphs are all provided. It uses a two window interface, like *ImageMaster*, but the windows can be resized and overlapped. Used with *ImageFX* it has a zoom mode and a number of other extra facilities like variable file types and image processing that are not available on the stand alone version.**

Available from Silica 081- 309 1111

ImageMaster Black Belt ■ £175



The first Amiga program to do proper morphing was *ImageMaster* from Black Belt. Choosing Special from the Composing Panel leads you to the Morphing module. This is laid out as two windows side-by-side, one for the source picture (the Primary buffer) and the other for the destination (the Secondary buffer). A band of text buttons provide the few tools that are available - add, move and delete points etc.

Available from Black Belt 0101-406 3675513

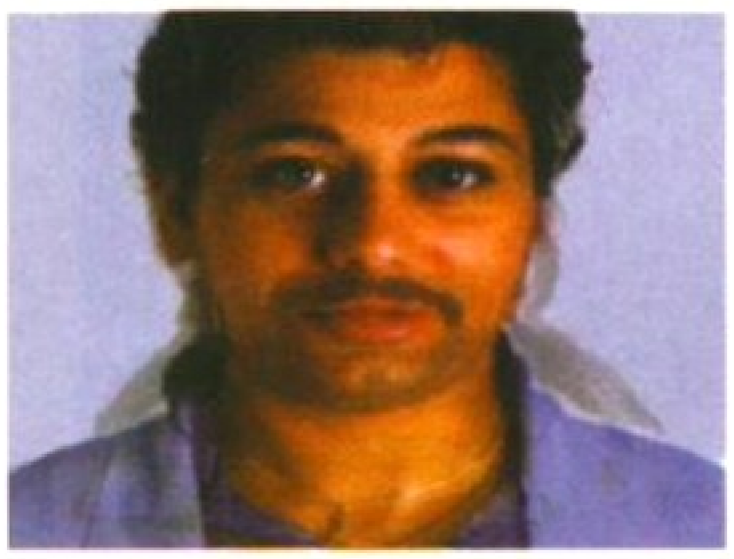
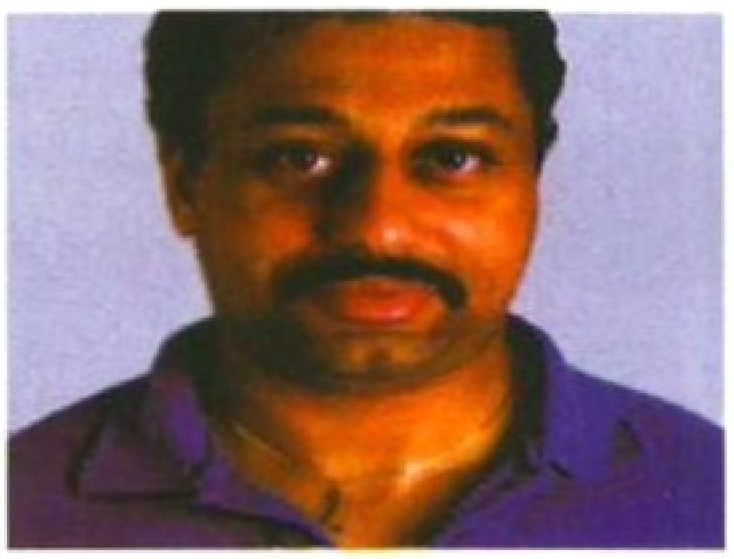





With practice this type of morph is as easy to set up as that in *ImageMaster*, but is much more flexible and powerful. Overall ASDG's *MorphPlus* is the best available.

In *MorphPlus* points are added in the form of vectors; one end marks the source image, the other the destination. Each new point places another vector parallel to the previous one, and each end can be selected and moved independently or together. Each vector can be linked to the next by an edge so that smooth warps can be produced, with fewer points. Source or destination points can be hidden and the fade slider adjusted for fine detail work on one image. A zoom facility helps this process greatly. Sets of points - those around each eye for instance - can be grouped independently, saved, moved, hidden or deleted. If moving images (sequences) are morphing, each group can use its own set of tweening frames and use different transparency curves to control the cross fading. You can even use an animated set of images as an Alpha channel to control the transparency. This means that different parts of a moving image can morph at different rates!

The numerous options and tools provided by MorphPlus mean that it is a much more complex program to learn than *ImageMaster's* morph module. The basic method of setting out points and vectors is quite simple to use however, and very powerful. Although none of the programs could be tested with moving images, *MorphPlus* seems to have the most comprehensive set of tools for handling sequences.

These were produced using the mesh set-up that came with the program so they look quite good. When I tried to repeat this with the tiger and woman, I produced a much messier morph. *CineMorph* takes practice.



This Tiger-Woman morph image has been created in *CineMorph*.

Setting the points for warping in *CineMorph* is radically different from the other morphing programs, using a grid overlay with a point at each intersection. If you have used a point or vector systems, the grid seems difficult at first. Once you realise the technique it is reasonably efficient, but never as intuitive as vectors. There is a choice of lines linking the points, or bezier curves passing through them. The beziers give a smoother warp but are much more difficult to set up.

Individual points can be selected and moved in either window in much the same way as in the other two programs but because there are so many points on screen right from the start, it is quite difficult to arrange them carefully where you want them. Horizontal rows and vertical columns of points can be added and deleted, and moved as one. This enables bunches of lines to be built up around important features like eyes and mouth. Groups of points can also be multiple selected and moved. Overall though, having so many points to move makes the system a bit clumsy. This is reflected in the wavy lines in the Tiger-Woman picture shown here. With practice, a better image could have been produced but the time taken to set up this morph was about the same as the other two - *ImageMaster* and *MorphPlus* - which gave better morphs.

Aside from the method of setting points, *CineMorph* seems to provide broadly the same level of functions as *MorphPlus*. Sequences of moving images can be morphed and automatic tweening can be used to save work. If the moving images change greatly, key tweens can be chosen and set up accordingly. Dissolve (cross-fade) and tweening curves can be set up to vary the rate of morphing for different groups of points.





These are the original morphs made with *ImageMaster* before I realised how important it was to have similar backgrounds, and the same orientation of the faces.



This Tiger-Woman morph image was created in *ImageMaster*.

Setting up the morphing points is simple enough. Placing a point on the source screen (at the corner of the tiger's left eye perhaps) produces a matching point on the destination screen. This can be moved to the corresponding point (the corner of the woman's eye). Gradually a set of points can be set up that can be saved to disk, (but not grouped or multiple selected). All edges can be 'pinned down' with points if you want. As a check, a single image can be rendered, or the whole sequence. During rendering a third window shows the path of each point but unfortunately, this cannot be edited. ARexx scripts can be run before or after rendering each frame so *ImageMaster's* processing tools can all be used.

The version of *ImageMaster* used for this comparison can only morph between pairs of still images, not moving frames, and unfortunately there is no zoom mode. (But it may well have been upgraded since last summer, when we last reviewed it *AF*37. A new version of the whole *ImageMaster* system is close to completion that promises to be stunning, including a much more intuitive interface). Compared with *MorphPlus* and *ImageFX*, *ImageMaster* is simple but quite intuitive. Coming back to it after eight months it was easy to use without even looking at the manual.

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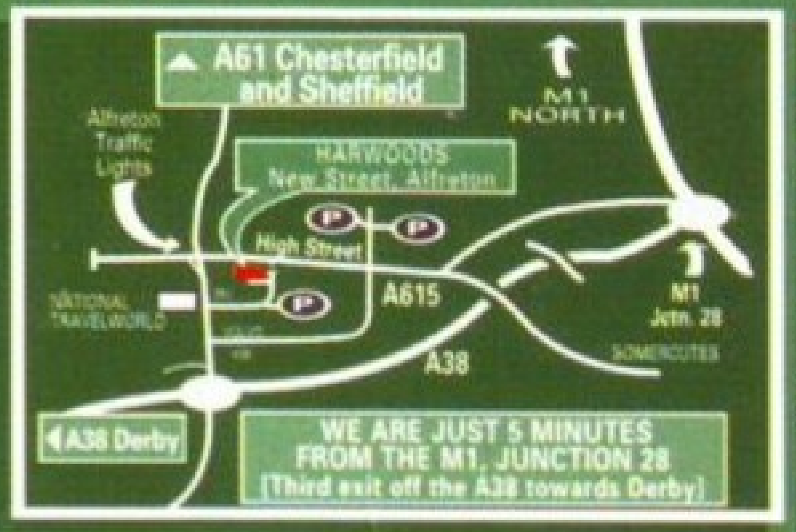
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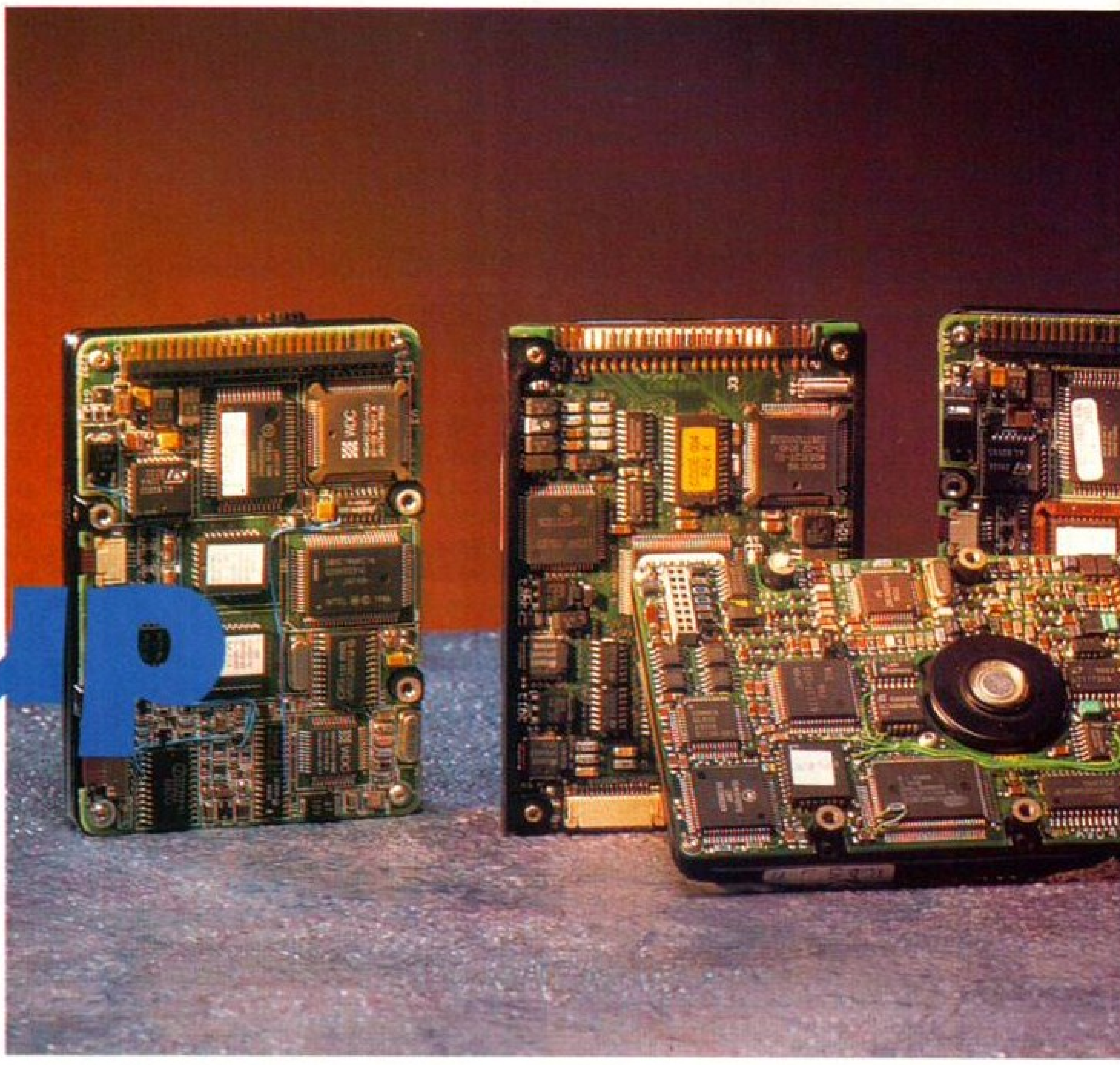
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With the arrival of the A1200 or A600 you can now have your hard drive on the inside of your Amiga. **Richard Baguley** tells you how to go about having a hard disk fitted, either professionally or DIY...

IDE roundup



A selection of the 2.5 inch hard disks used in the A1200 and A600. These are available in sizes of between 20 and 170 Mb

HARD DISKS ARE truly lovely things. Just imagine it, all the information on your piles of disks, stuffed inside your machine, and accessible in a fraction of a second. No more tiresome disk swapping while playing *Monkey Island 2*, juggling four different disks on *Wordworth*, and no painful waiting around while you load your latest animation into *DPaint IV*. What more could you ask for?

A hard disk is like a big floppy disk which is stuck permanently inside the computer. Since it's not removable, you can get to the data faster, and read or write to it at a much higher speed than with floppies. With the design of the A600 and A1200, Commodore have used 2.5-inch hard disks instead of the more common 35-inch disks, which are used in most of the external hard disk drives on earlier Amigas and in other types of computer. They also have used hard disks that use the IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) type of interface instead of the more complex, but faster SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface) type.

With IDE drives, most of the circuitry that controls the drive is built into the drive itself, so the computer side of things is less complex. This means that Commodore are able to fit the interface on to the main printed circuit board of the Amiga, without the need for any extra add on cards or boxes, unlike earlier Amiga models. These 2.5-inch disks are more expensive, but are smaller and use less power. They're more commonly used in portable PCs where space and weight is at a premium. They come in sizes of between approximately 20 and 170 Mb, which is roughly equivalent to between 23 and 175 floppy disks.

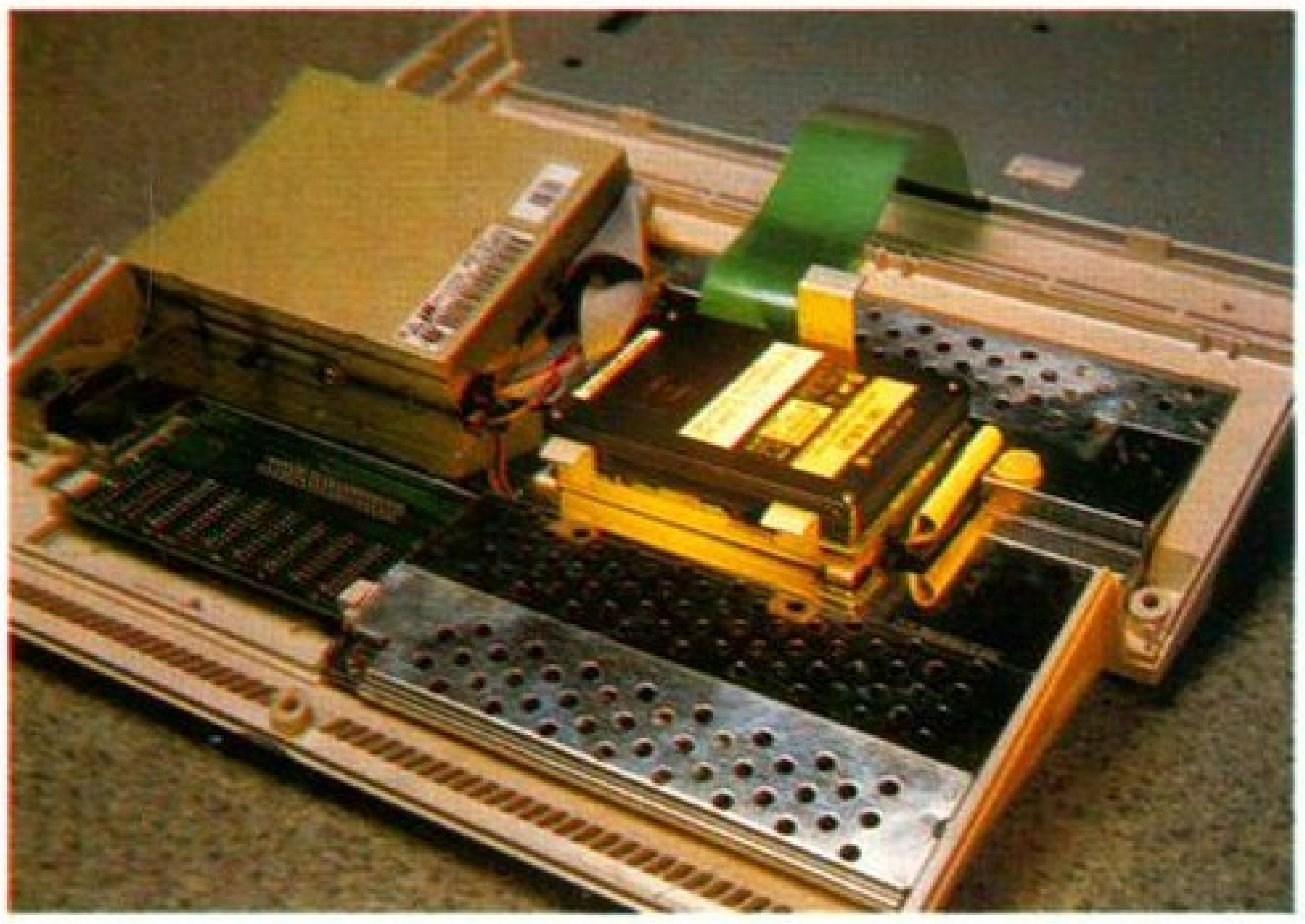
> "Companies are selling DIY hard disk kits – only buy one if you're familiar with the Amiga because you could lose your warranty"

If you're going to add a hard disk to your Amiga, the necessary circuitry is already built into the Amiga, so all you need to do is fit the disk to the cradle included with your Amiga, and connect the disk and the Amiga together using a short cable.

Several companies are selling kits that include all you need to fit the hard disk yourself. Since this involves opening your computer and breaking the warranty seal, your guarantee will be invalid. So, if a few days after fitting the drive, smoke begins to pour out of it, don't bother ringing Wang because they won't send anybody round.

If you're determined to fit a drive yourself, then actually fitting it is not difficult, and shouldn't take you more than 10 to 15 minutes. All that you need to do is open the machine, fit the drive into the cradle which comes fitted to your Amiga, connecting the hard disk to the computer with the cable that should be supplied, and replace the lid. All the kits either include software for you to format the hard disk and install the Workbench programs, or are already prepared with Workbench installed.

I wouldn't recommend you fit your own disk unless you're reasonably familiar with the innards of the Amiga, and don't mind losing your guarantee. Given that you don't mind losing it, it's not a difficult procedure. See over the page for an illustrated guide to doing it



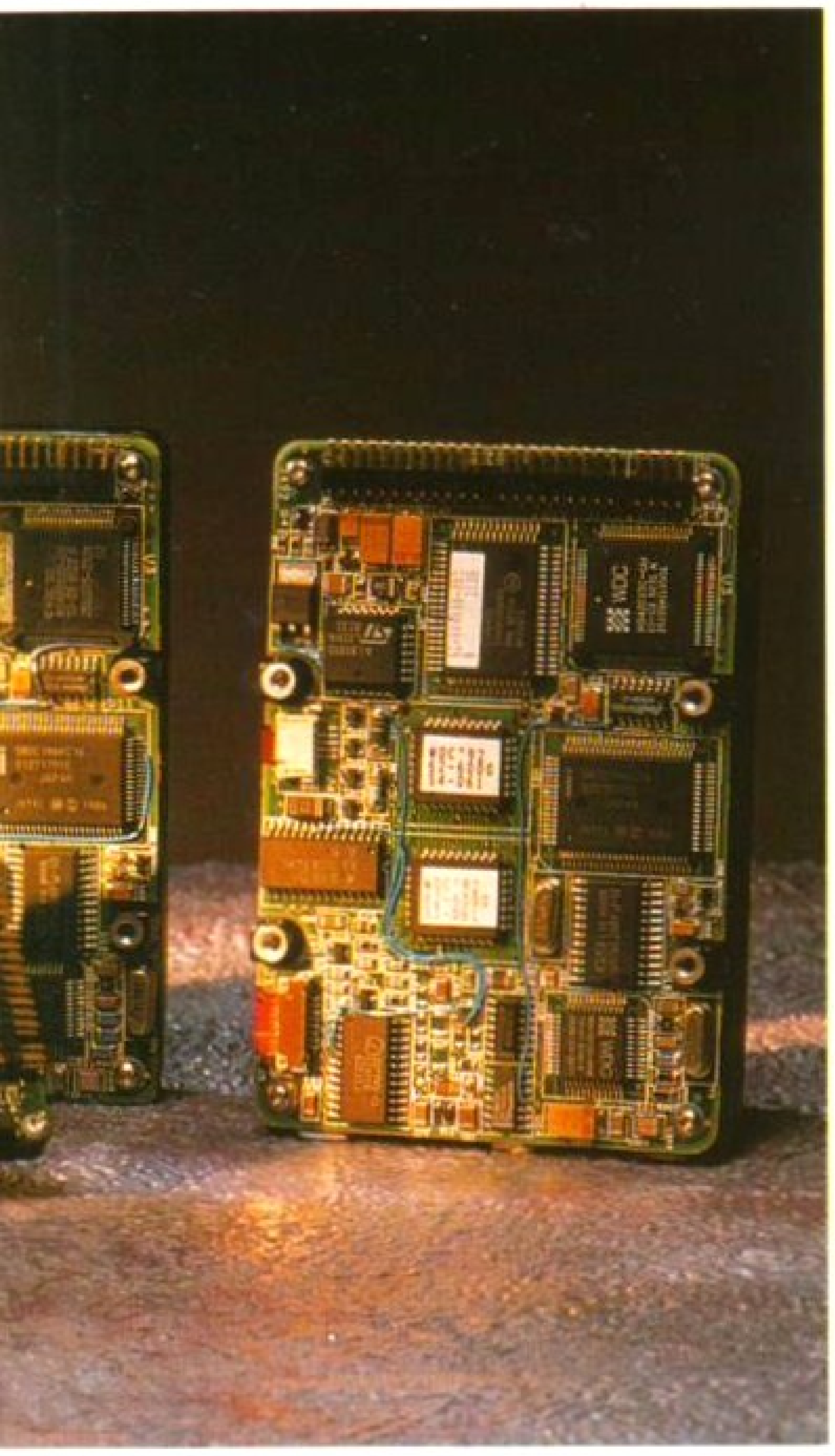
The hard disk on an A600 fits in roughly the same place as that on a A1200.

I'VE GOT THEM WARRANTY BLUES

The situation with what happens to the warranty on your A1200 when a hard disk is fitted is somewhat confusing to say the least. The official Commodore policy is that only two companies are authorised by them to fit hard drives to Amigas.

The companies who have official licences are ZCL (who supply the Calculus chain) and Silica Systems. So, if you purchase an A1200 with a hard disk from either of these companies or get one of them to fit one, your on-site maintenance from Wang will not be affected. Your machine will be fitted with a new warranty sticker which identifies it as an official upgrade. If you purchase a new Amiga with a hard disk or get one fitted by another company, the on-site warranty is invalidated, and the it then becomes the responsibility of the company who fitted the drive.

If you use a kit to fit your own disk, you will also lose your warranty. There are rumours that Wang will service machines that have been opened if the problem isn't connected with the hard drive, but we've not been able to confirm this, so even if you've heard similar, don't rely on it.



yourself. On the right here there's a table giving all of the prices that we could get hold of.

If you've already installed a disk yourself and are worried about what happens if there's a problem with either the disk or your computer, Trilogic have introduced a scheme where you can purchase an extra two or three years' warranty, even if you've fitted a drive using one of these kits. An extra three years return-to-base warranty on a 1200 with an 80 Mb hard disk costs £67.99, assuming that the Amiga is in full working order when you take out the insurance. (Trilogic 0274 691115.)

It is possible to get hold of the bare drives from the suppliers or manufacturers, but these should be approached with extreme caution. Not all 2.5-inch IDE drives will work with the IDE interface built into the Amiga, so ensure that the model has been tested before you buy.

The cables for connecting the disk to the Amiga are also difficult to get hold of, so make sure that you can get hold of them before purchasing. You will also need some software to prepare and install the disk, although fortunately Microbotics have recently made their *RDPrep* software generally available..

The other alternative is to get one fitted by a professional. (See below left 'Warranty Blues' for the full story.) At the moment there are only two companies with Commodore approval: Silica Distribution, who will be selling their kit on to dealers, and ZCL, who will be carrying out this service through their Calculus stores. Other companies are offering a disk-fitting service, but once they've fitted the drive, the Commodore on-site warranty is invalidated.

Most of these companies are including a return-to-base warranty, which means that in order to get the machine repaired you either have to send the machine back to them or ring them to get a courier to pick it up, but you should check the exact details of this warranty before purchasing.

IDE RATHER USE SCSI, YOU KNOW

When the A1200 was first released, many people were disappointed to see that Commodore had chosen to use IDE drives, because users had been hoping for the faster and more expandable SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface) type instead. SCSI disks are slightly more expensive, but can transfer data faster, and you can connect up to eight drives and other devices. It's also possible to control other peripherals such as tape streamers, scanners and very large hard disks via this type of interface, if you're running software that will use it.

GVP have recently announced that they will be releasing a SCSI interface for the A1200 which fits in the trapdoor on the underside of the machine, which will include a maths co-processor and a slot for extra 32-bit memory. Prices have not yet been confirmed, but the model with a 16 Mhz 68882 will retail for around £299.

PRICE GUIDE FOR A1200 AND A600 HARD DISKS

Size	20	40	60	80	120	170
Trilogic	119.99	169.99	-	199.99	369.99	-
	124.99	184.99	-	214.99	169.99	-
Evesham	-	-	229	-	359	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Horizon	110	120	180	210	325	-
	135	145	205	235	350	-
WTS	109	-	219	249	274	309
	123	-	234	264	289	324
Power	-	179	205	229	359	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gordon Harwood	-	-	-	-	-	-
	149.95	199.95	249.95	299.95	-	-
Software Demon	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	175	-	269	299
Indi Direct	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	219	279	-	-
First Computer	99.99	164.99	179.99	215.99	299.99	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

The prices in black are for the do-it-yourself kits, and the prices in red for fitting by the suppliers. A dash indicates that the company either does not supply drives of that size, or prices are not available at present.

Please also note that although these prices are correct at the time of going to press, you should confirm them with the various companies concerned before buying, because the companies who manufacture and supply these dealers are constantly changing their prices, and the availability of these disks is also variable. At present, there is a world shortage of the larger sizes.

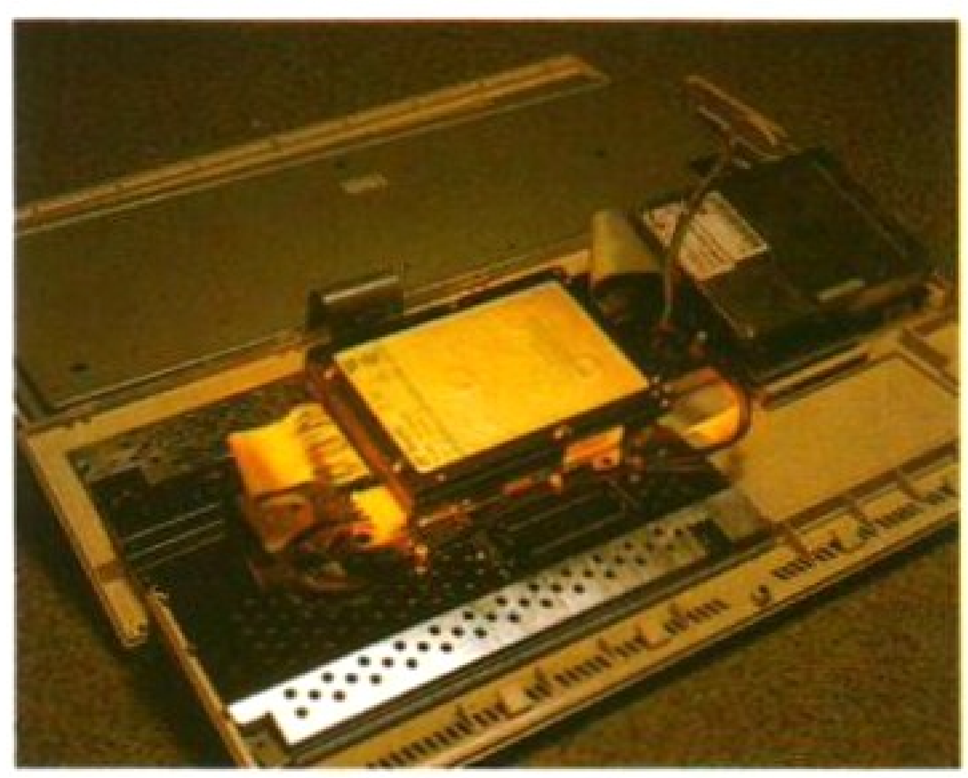
MORE DISK, MORE POWER, BUT FOR LESS MONEY

Recently, a company called Software Demon have started fitting drives which are significantly cheaper than the usual 2.5-inch models. This is because they are using 3.5-inch disks, as used in PCs and expansions for earlier Amiga models.

Neither the A1200 or A600 is designed to take one of these larger disks, but Software Demon have managed to squeeze one in. It's a tight fit, but it works. The bigger drives use more power than the 2.5-inch ones, so they've had to take the power from the floppy drive supply. Fortunately, modern drives don't require much power, and the model we've looked at doesn't seem to have any problems with power supply. It is fitted with a 240 Mb drive, which is almost twice the size of the biggest 2.5-inch disk available. This is very fast, with a data transfer rate of over 1.3Mb per second, against a typical 0.6Mb per second for a 2.5-inch drive.

In order to fit the disk, Software Demon have cut two holes in the shielding, and the drive is fitted on to this by a couple of screws. Thus, if you want to remove or replace the drive, you'll need to take the whole thing apart. If you're anything like me, you'll end up bleeding all over it when you slice your finger open on the shielding.

It's a rather tight squeeze when closing the case, and the keyboard presses down on the drive, which in turn presses down on the shielding. This doesn't actually touch any of the circuitry, but it does get pretty close. This doesn't seem to be a problem, but if at any point in the future, Commodore alter the layout of the motherboard or bring out any daughterboards, this could be a problem. Prices begin at £199 for 85 Mb and go up to £599 for a 426 Mb drive, inclusive of fitting and a year's warranty.



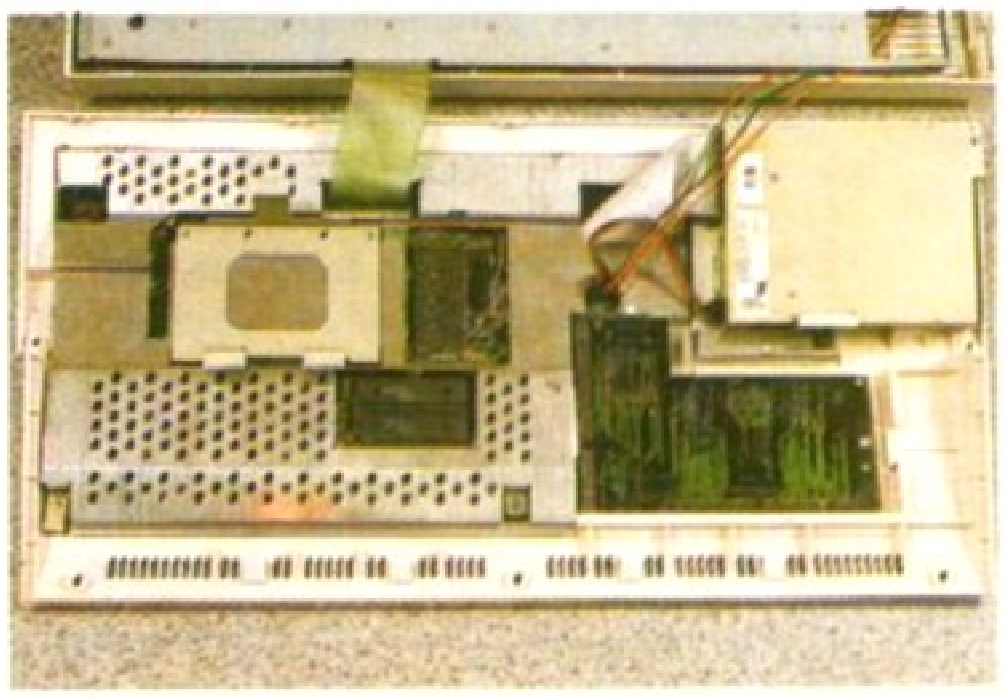
An A1200 fitted with a 240 Mb drive by Software Demon. It's a tight fit when you close the case..

Roll your own

Fitting an internal hard disk to an A1200 is a reasonably simple procedure, as the following pictures show. But before you start, please take note of the precautions in the box on the right...

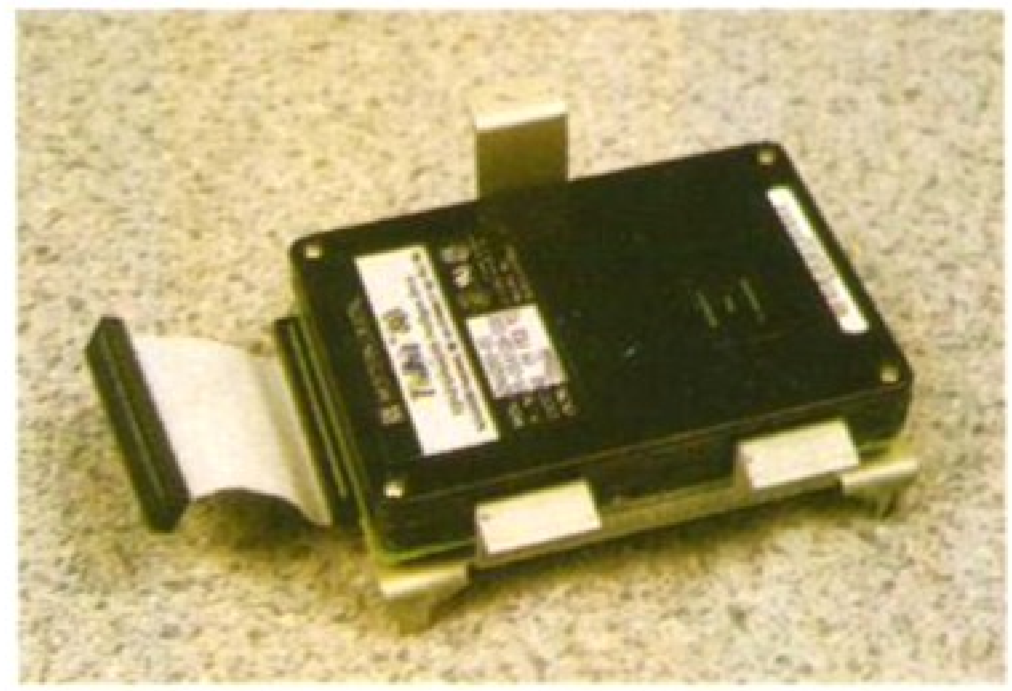
NB: PLEASE NOTE that following this procedure will invalidate your warranty. Neither Amiga Format or Future Publishing will accept any responsibility for any damage to your machine through following this procedure. Disconnect all peripherals from the Amiga, and work on a large, clear, flat surface. Beware of static: use an anti-static wrist strap. Don't eat or drink near your computer.

STEP 1



Remove the three screws at the front and the two at the sides of the A1200. This frees the top half of the case. In the A600 you will need to remove the three screws at the front, and the one screw on the right-hand edge. Lift off the top of the case. A600 owners will need to disconnect the cable connecting the keyboard lights, and A1200 users will need to move the keyboard separately. You should then be able to see the hard disk cradle.

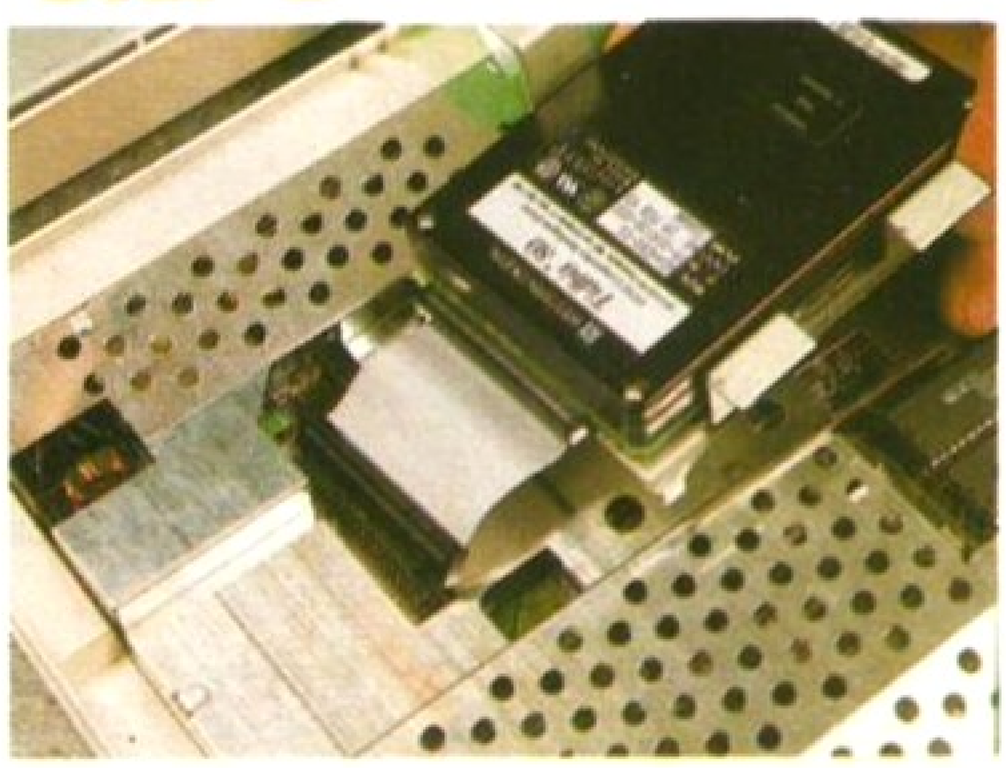
STEP 2



Remove the cradle from the Amiga, and screw the hard disk to it as shown here. It's important that you do get it the right way around.

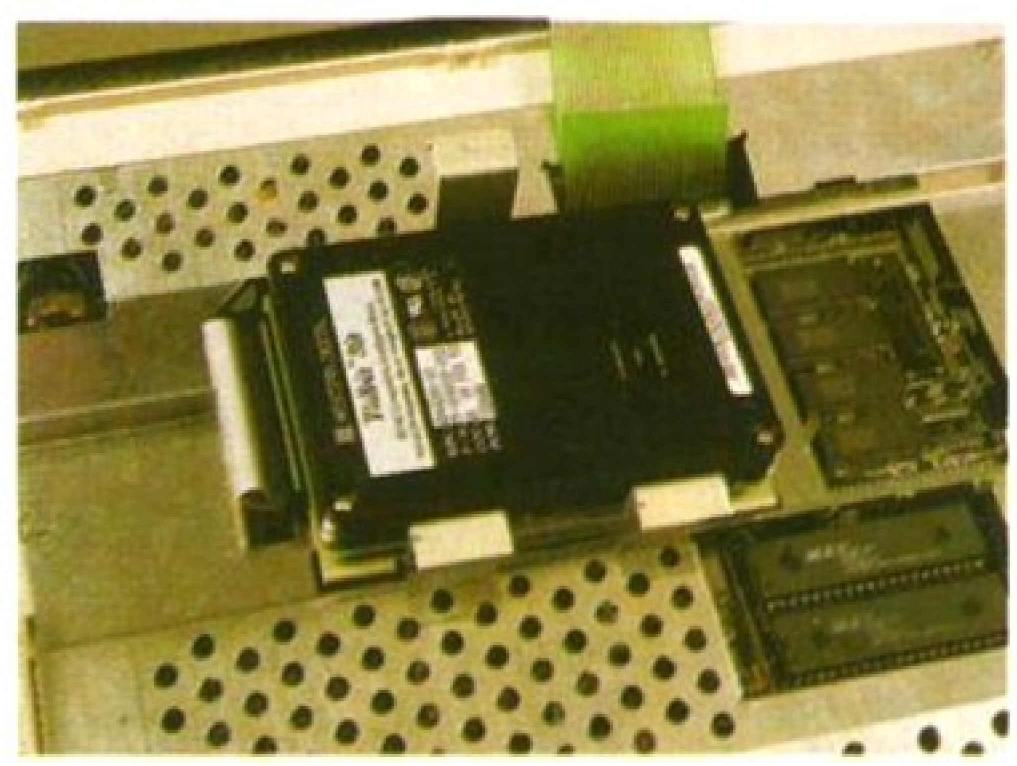
Attach the cable to the disk if it's not already fitted. On the disk there will be too many pins for the cable, but the separate block of six or eight can be ignored, because these are for setting various options to do with the drive. Connect the cable to the two rows of 20, making sure that no pins are bent.

STEP 3



Connect the cable socket to the pins on the motherboard by applying firm pressure until it fits correctly. Make sure that no pins protrude from either side of the plug block, and that none of the pins have been bent by the socket.

STEP 4

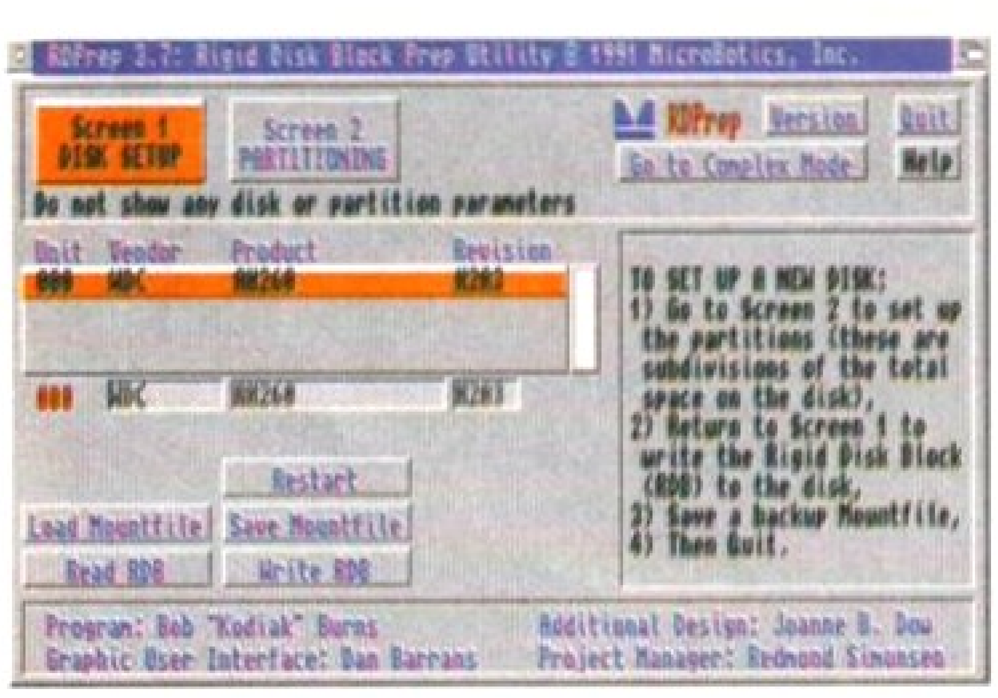


Put the drive and cradle back into the computer, with the cable facing to the left and the highest L-shaped part of the cradle to the rear. Once the case is put back together, these will hold the cradle steady against the case.

STEP 5

Replace the lid, and screw it back in. Reconnect your Amiga, and turn it on. When you turn the computer on, you should hear a whirring noise, which is the hard disk starting up. If it doesn't seem to be working, open the machine again and check the connections between the disk and the Amiga. Try Removing the disk and refitting the cable, ensuring that it fits firmly into both the disk, and the Amiga.

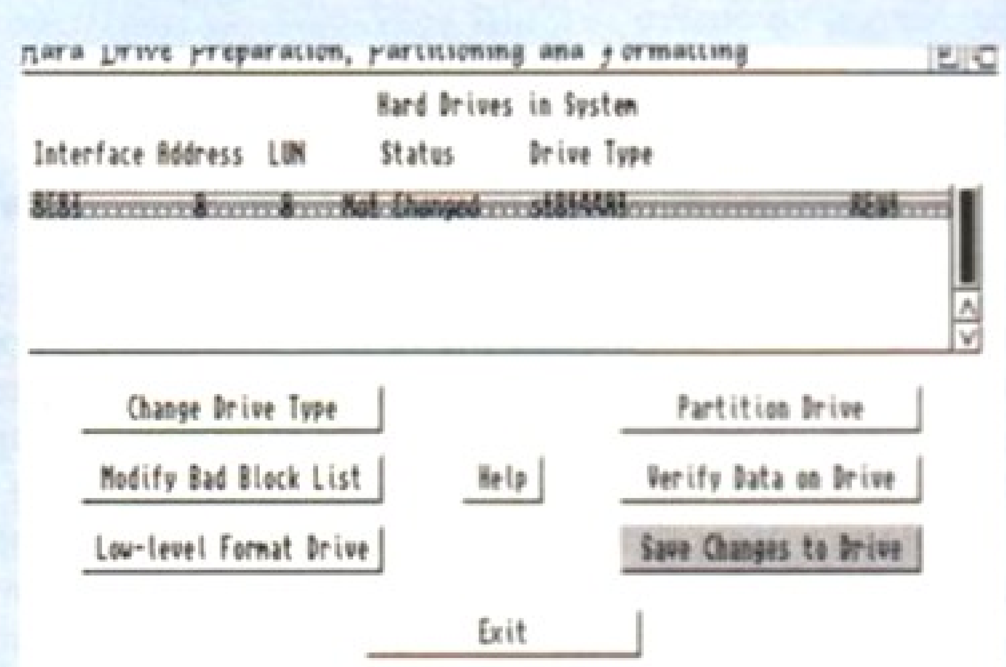
If the disk is pre-formatted by the company you bought the disk from, it should boot up into Workbench.



This is the Microbotics software which is used to format the hard disk in action. They have recently decided to make this generally available

If the disk is not pre-formatted, you will need to run some software to do this. Some companies have written their own software and scripts to install, and others are using software originally designed to work with the Microbotics hard frame disk interface, but this works fine with the IDE interface built into the A1200 and A600.

GET THE RIGHT STUFF!



If you've bought a do it yourself hard disk kit and the formatting program looks like this, then Commodore would like to hear from you....

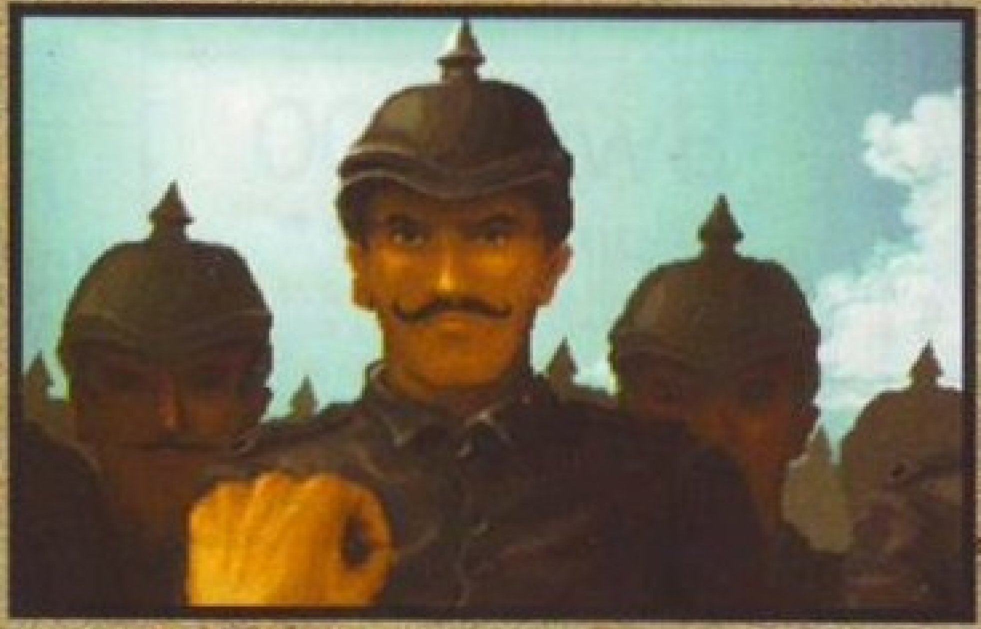
It's recently come to light that some distributors have been sending out copies of the *HDToolbox* program that was supplied with the A4000, which is a copyrighted program. According to Commodore, anybody found doing so may be subject to legal action.

However, on a slightly more cheerful note, Microbotics have decided to make their hard disk preparation and formatting software *RDPrep* available to everyone. Although it's not Public Domain, any dealer or Amiga user can still copy and use this software, as long as it's not altered in any way. This means that it's now more of a practical possibility to get hold of a drive, install it and actually be able to use it.

HISTORYLINE

1914-1918

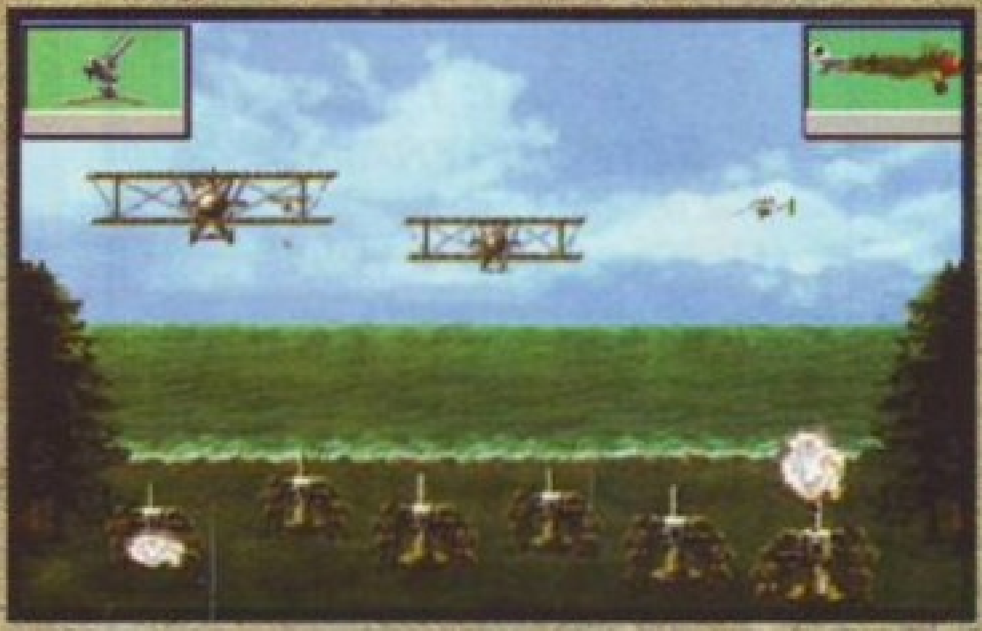




HISTORYLINE 1914-1918 is a strategy war game simulation set in the period of the first world war.
One or two players are able to take control of opposing forces. Choose to take the role of either the Allies or the German-Austro-Hungarian army. From your aerial view, witness the battle as you deploy and then the enemy counters.
Changing seasons, varying quality of terrain, strategically held locations, and well planned attacks by outmanoeuvring your opponent are all critical considerations to be met in order to achieve victory.
HISTORYLINE 1914-1918 contains a wealth of historical and technical information. This is not only illustrated beautifully on the screen during the course of the game, but is also available for your reference in the extensive and meticulously researched manual.
Making it easy to learn and to play, HISTORYLINE 1914-1918 is a must for everyone interested in an extremely high quality, massively challenging, addictive, and hugely accurate strategy war game simulation.
Hours of enjoyment - *Guaranteed*. You may even learn something!











Screen shots show MS-DOS VGA version. MS-DOS version supports Adlib, Soundblaster, and VGA 256 colour mode graphics. Amiga version supports accelerator boards and 64 colour mode graphics.

Designed and developed by the same team who created Battle Isle.
For further information please telephone 0727-868005

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Screenplay

Spring is in the air, the birds are singing in the trees, the sun is shining – and what are the **Amiga Format** reviewers doing? Sitting in a dark, cold office, playing games, because they know what's good for them. And they've been playing...

YOU CAN RELY ON US

Amiga Format reviews. What is it that makes them so special?

Andy Nuttall explains...

You probably already know that *Amiga Format* is the biggest-selling Amiga magazine in the world. We've achieved this by offering you, the reader, what we feel are the most authoritative reviews to be found anywhere. This view is consistently supported by the major software distributors, who refer to our reviews before deciding how many games to buy.

We've all been in your situation before, and been caught out by buying poor-quality games. Now though, we're in a situation where we can advise you which games are worth buying, and which games aren't worth the plastic they're stored on. If we manage to stop just one of you wasting your money, then we feel that our job is worthwhile.

We have four golden rules which we stick to like glue:

(A) If a game's not finished, it doesn't get reviewed.
(B) If it's crap, we say it's crap – and it doesn't matter what the softies think of us.
(C) We have never, and we will never, review a game 'on-site'.
(D) If we're forced to take sides, it's always your side we take.

THE REVIEW CREW

Spring is here once again. And what are our cheery reviewers looking forward to?

AMANDA DYSON

"Going for drives in my convertible with my hubbie, and the wind blowing through our hair – well my hair, he hasn't really got much left."

JAMES LEACH

"I'm off to the Lake district with my dog, oh and my girlfriend – I'm forever getting them muddled up you know."

SARAH TANSER

"I went to the cinema, and there was a couple tickling tonsils in the seats in front. He was bald, but you know what they say about bald men – they don't need to use combs, apparently."

CLARE HODGSON

"I'm looking forward to moving into my new Barratt house, apparently it's a limited edition – I understand there's only 4,000 others like it on the whole estate!"

PAT MCDONALD

"If there's one thing I like to do it's get up early in the morning, before the sun rises. Once I'm up, I go to the toilet, then get back in bed again."

RICHARD BAGULEY

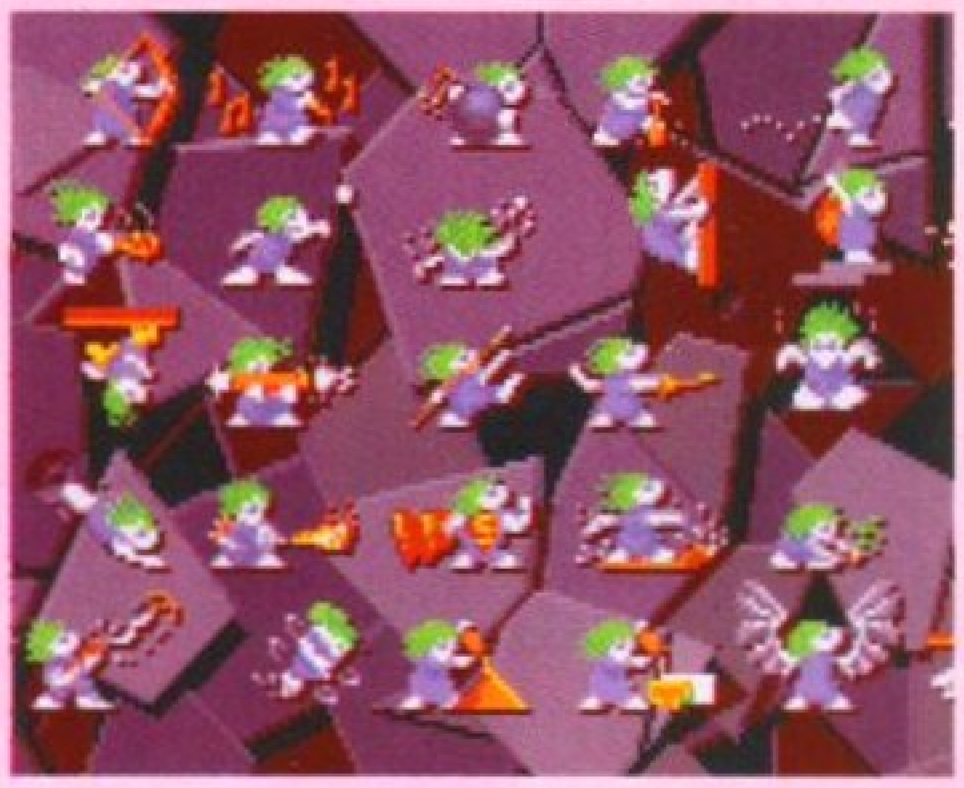
"I like to sing and dance and wave bits of paper in the air, before rushing out and washing my hair in the nearest country rain barrel."

A1200 COMPATIBILITY

The Amiga 1200 has been out for a few months now, and we reckon that anybody producing games now would be pretty mad to release a game that wasn't compatible.

Because of this, we will only inform you if a game is NOT A1200 compatible. We will, of course, test every game on the A1200, so you can rely on our judgement. If you see the logo, it won't work.

WAKE UP! TIME TO PLAY...



Lemmings 2

Ah, at last the long awaited game finally gets its authoritative review. We could have tried to squeeze a mini one it into the last issue, but because it's such a large and involved game we decided to spend a whole month playing it! So if you haven't bought it already, find out exactly what it's like on... **Page 54**



B-17 Flying Fortress

It's deep, it's meaningful, and it's on your screen now. MicroProse have promised that *B-17* is going to be the definitive Amiga flight sim – but how close is that to the truth? Well, you'll just have to turn to... **Page 76**



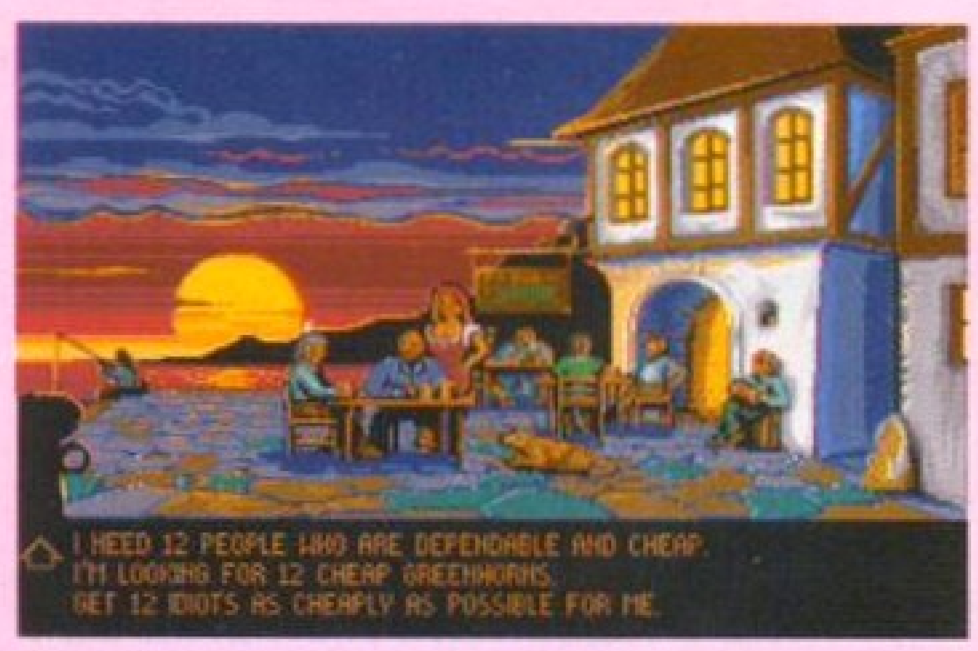
Body Blows

Those of you who were disappointed with *Streetfighter 2* on the Amiga, are in luck! We've been looking forward to Team17's *Body Blows* for ages, so now it's actually arrived we've been beating each other up every day! Find out how well it plays on... **Page 58**



Son of Chuck

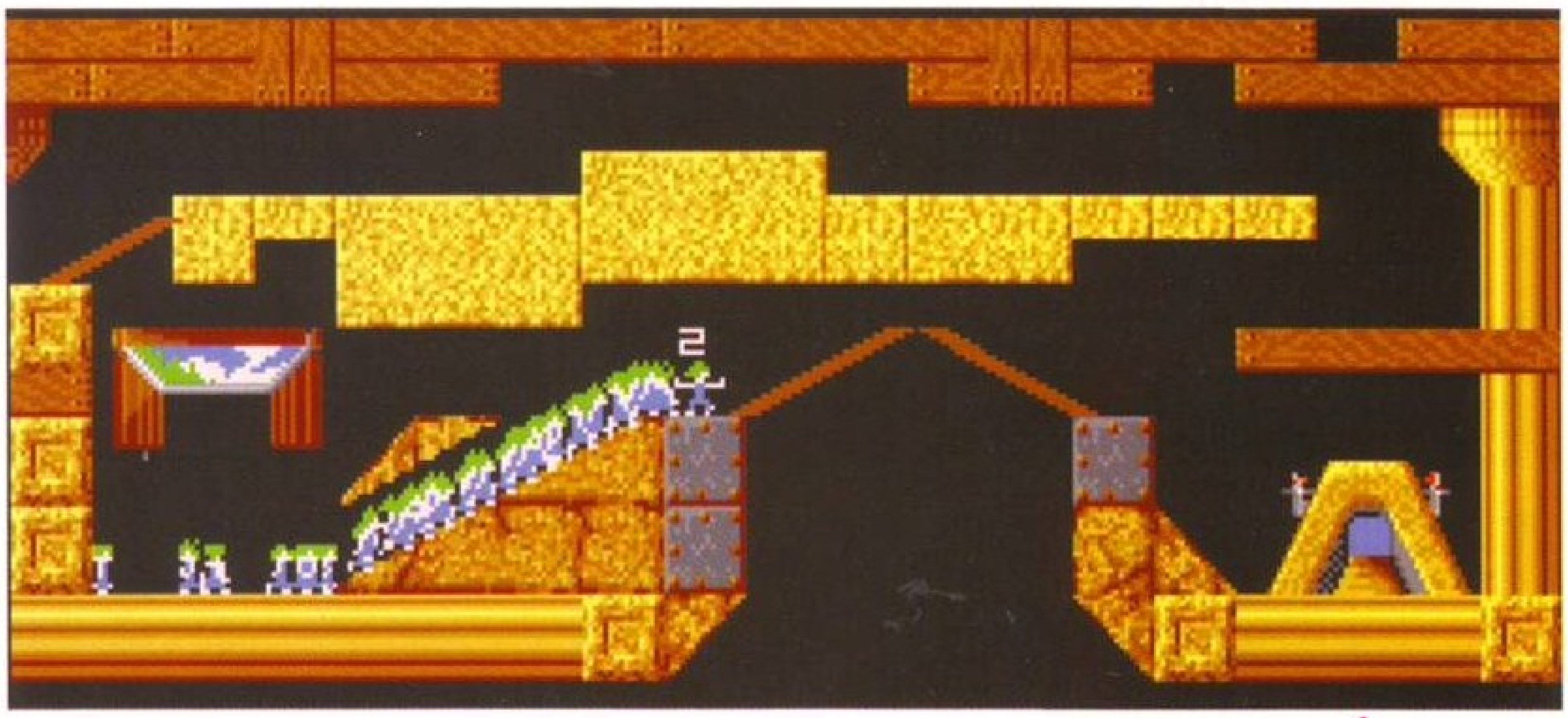
Chuck Rock, the character with an extremely prominent stomach, made it big in 1991 in his own game. Now he's been kidnapped, and it's up to his offspring to set him free. **Page 80**



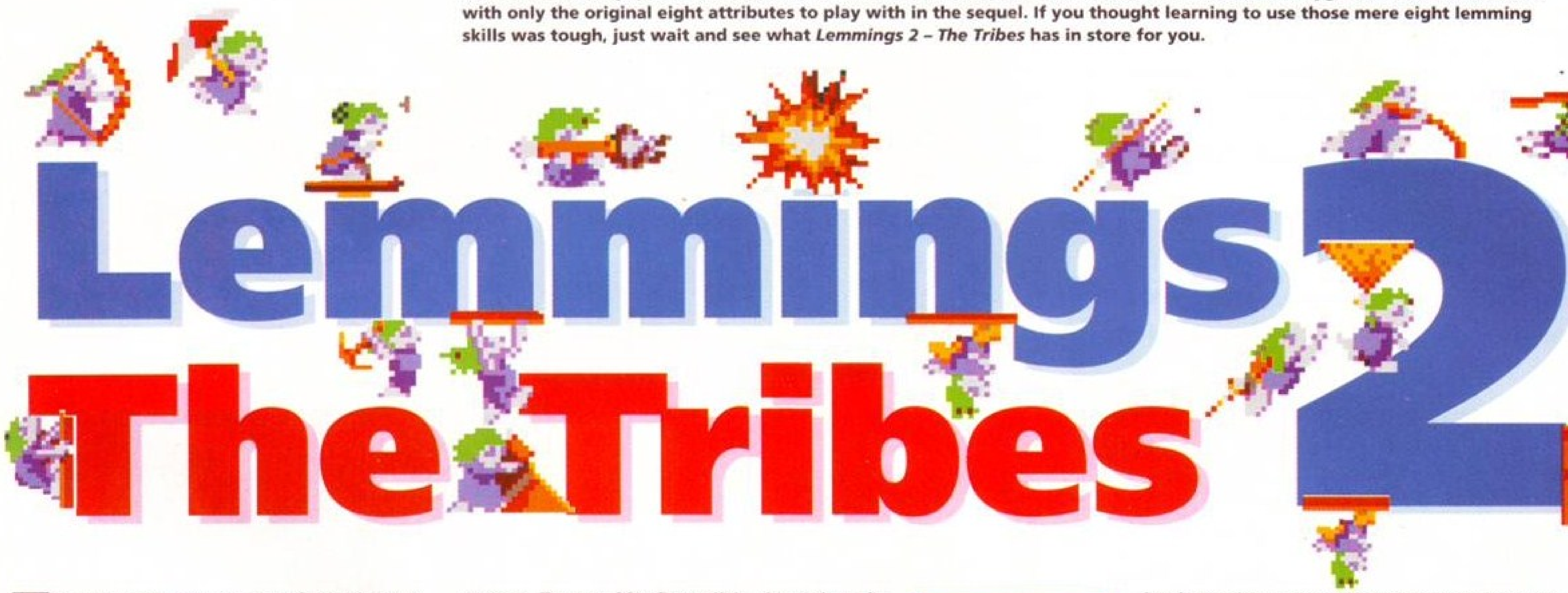
1869

Ship trading? That sounds like a bundle of laughs. Seriously, though, it's rather good. Flair are not known for their 'serious' games, but they seem to be on to a winner with this one... **Page 72**

Have you sussed your original *Lemmings* yet? Well, I hope you have because those lovable, but suicidal mammals are back. If you can save them, then boats will fly.



Remember these guys? I've always been a big fan of the classics. So I was over the moon when Psygnosis included 10 levels with only the original eight attributes to play with in the sequel. If you thought learning to use those mere eight lemming skills was tough, just wait and see what *Lemmings 2 – The Tribes* has in store for you.



Lemmings 2 The Tribes

If ever there was an out-of-the-blue success story, then the original *Lemmings* was it. Everyone at ***Amiga Format*** treated its arrival in 1990 as just another jiffy bag in the mail. But the envelope contained what was to become one of the classic Amiga games of all time. Some snubbed it at first, saying that they didn't like puzzlers, but in the end the sound of one "Oh no!" would turn even the most hardened cynic into an addict.

Lemmings has spanned the age groups – no Amiga user has been safe. They even invaded Christmas by appearing on a special (*Amiga Format* 30) Coverdisk, dressed up in Santa costumes. But is there enough mileage left in the lovable creatures to carry the legend through to the next generation? Well, by the look of *Lemmings 2 – The Tribes* this thing could last and last.

NEEDS 1 MEG

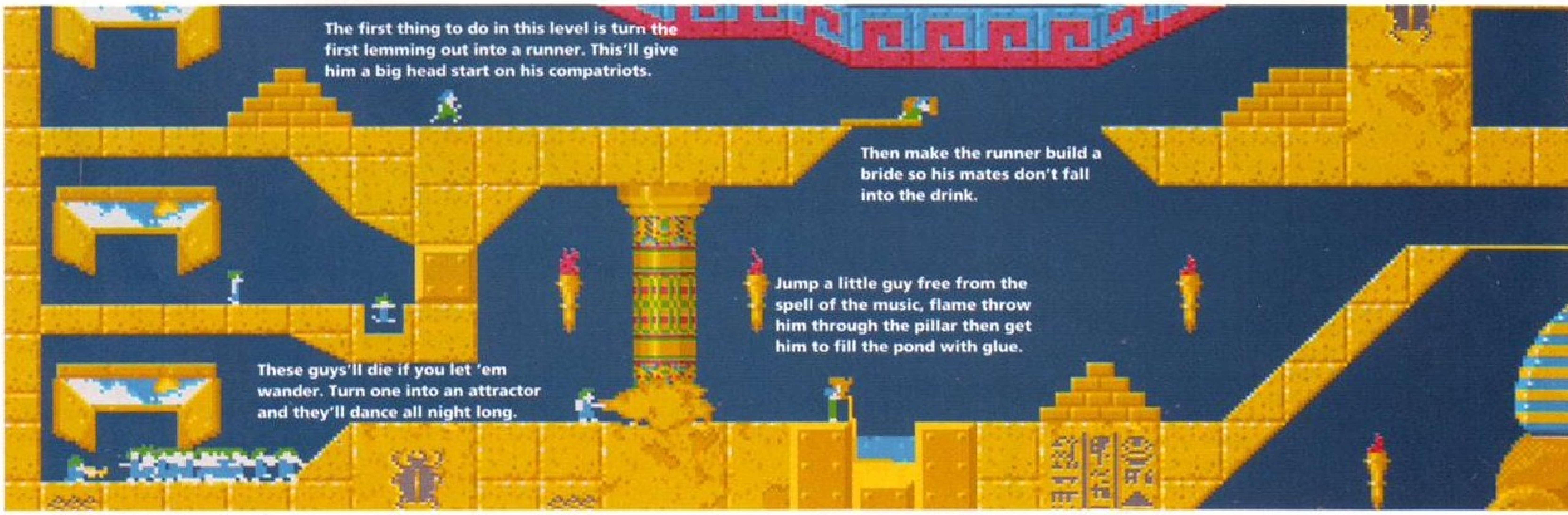
Nothin' gets me down

The objective is much the same as on the predecessor: you have to lead a tribe of lemmings through a landscape full of chasms and traps to an exit, then on to the next level. There are 120 levels in all (the same number as the first, taking into account the difficulty levels) each posing a problem to solve, but all leading to one goal. And what is that goal? Well, we'd better tell you a story...

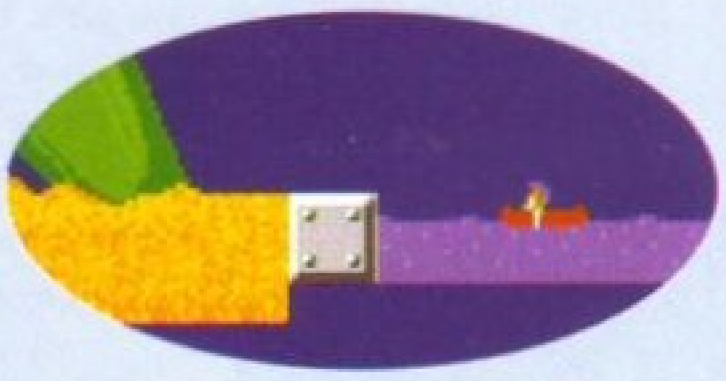
For starters there's a plot. The lemmings you saved in the first game have migrated to Lemming Island and they've split into 12 'Tribes', all with separate lifestyles. However, all the tribes have kept their portion of the sacred Lemming Talisman to remind them of their ancestry, and protect them from evil.

All is not rosy though, because Jimmy McLemming has taken it upon himself to

Contact: Psygnosis 051-709 5755



PAY ATTENTION 007, THIS IS WHAT YOUR NEW LEMMINGS DO...



A lemming can now paddle across any expanse of water with a kayak – a useful skill to have.

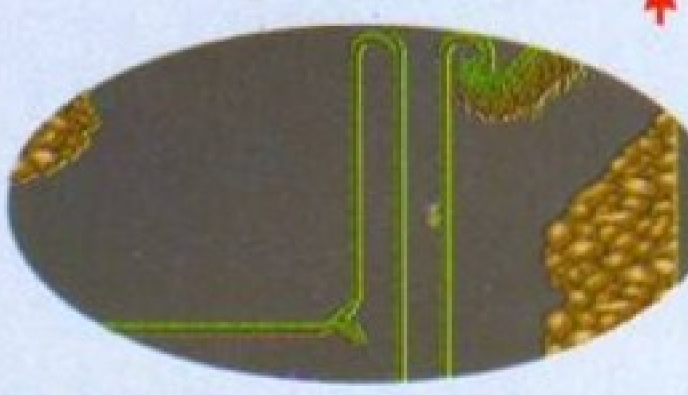


An attractor will stop and play his favourite instrument. Lemmings like to dance, so they'll gather for a boogie.



A fencer will cut away land, leaving a tunnel that slopes upwards. He'll stop though if he hits fresh air or metal .

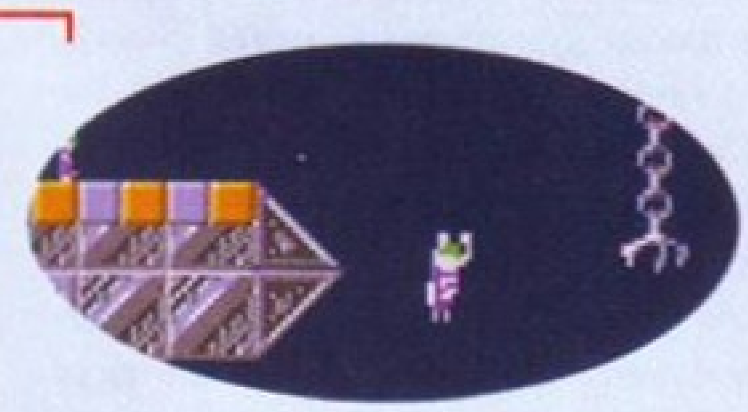




Rock climbers can scale vertical surfaces, but they can also get around over hangs of less than 45 degrees.



Make a lemming into a roper and he'll fire a grappling hook which pulls a line after it strong enough to walk on.



A Super lemming will fly like a bird to the cursor. Unless he hits any land, then he'll turn back into Clarke Lem.

travel the island and warn his compatriots of impending doom. He's informed the elders of each tribe that the only way to save them from extinction is to collect the tribes' 12 different pieces of the talisman together in the centre of the island. Only then can the lemmings summon the giant flying boat that can take them to a faraway safe haven.

The ancient book of Lemmingland tells of McLemming's journey across the dangerous land and of the characters he meets. After sifting through the information found in this 'tome' of knowledge it's up to you to lead the tribes to safety. You must guide them towards the lake in the centre, otherwise they will have no chance of surviving the terrors.

> **HARD DRIVE USERS**
> **DMA Design are soon to release a utility which enables you to install *Lemmings 2* on to your hard disk. Contact one of the larger PD libraries such as 17 Bit or NBS (see Page 170), who should be able to supply it for a nominal fee. If you have any problems, contact Psygnosis.**

The only problem is that although they've evolved and acquired new attributes to help them cope with the varied landscapes, the lemmings are just as dim-witted as they always were – so the 'magic force' is needed to help them survive.

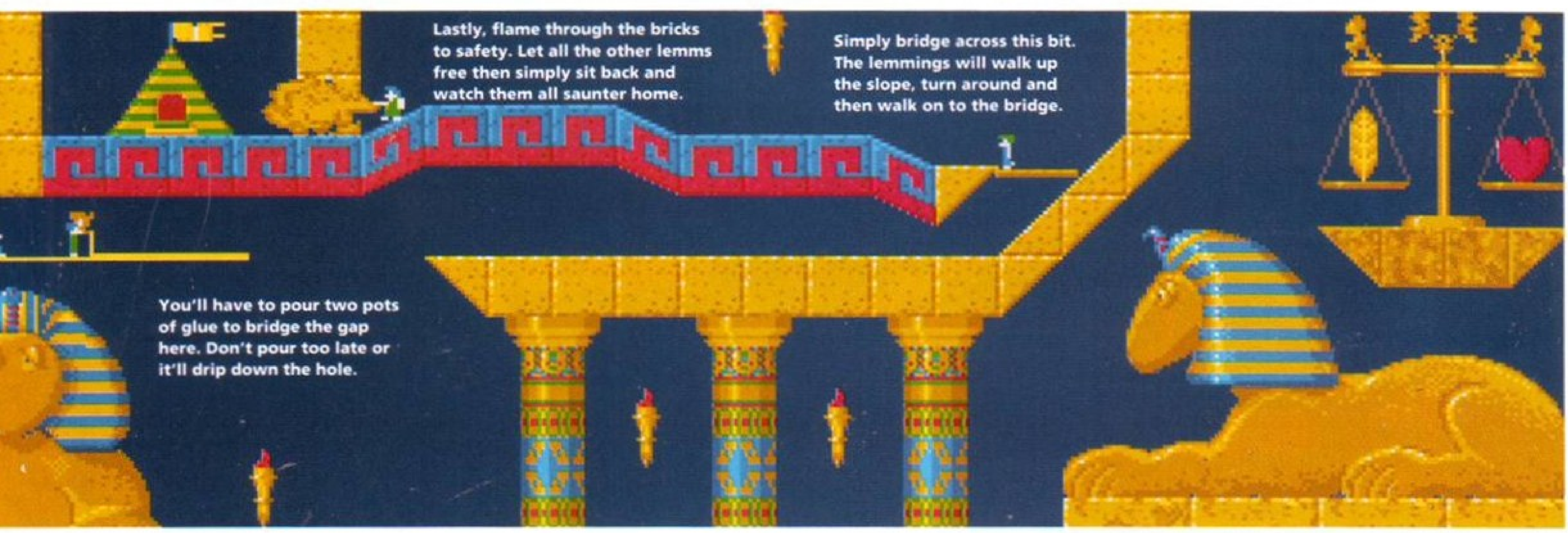
Walk of life

The 12 tribes have their own distinctive cultures and buildings which have been influenced by many walks of life. For example, there are Beach-bum lemmings, all big and bronzed, while the Highland lemmings career wildly around, presumably a bit tiddly from too much Laphroaig with their haggis.

Each tribe has distinctive skills. Many lemming attributes are universal, but some you will only find in certain factions. There are the original skills their forbears were blessed with, but the majority of the population considers these to be a bit mad, and so have developed skills more befitting a civilised culture.

At the start of the game, you can call up a map of the island. The map shows the locations of the various tribes and their own bits of

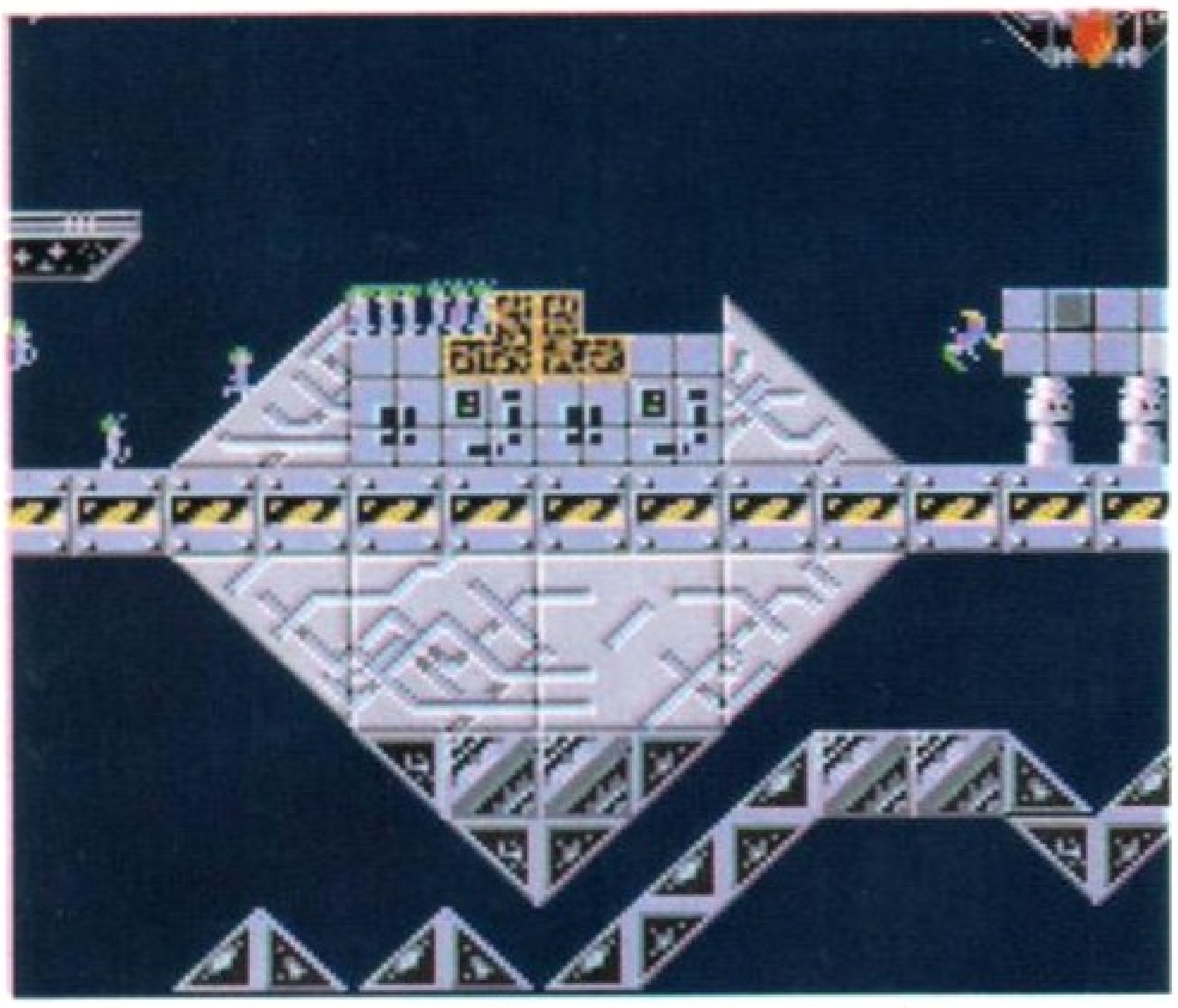
Continued overleaf



Lastly, flame through the bricks to safety. Let all the other lemms free then simply sit back and watch them all saunter home.

Simply bridge across this bit. The lemmings will walk up the slope, turn around and then walk on to the bridge.

You'll have to pour two pots of glue to bridge the gap here. Don't pour too late or it'll drip down the hole.



the talisman. The nearer to the centre of the map the chunk of medallion is, the nearer that tribe of lemmings is to the lake.

Before you start playing the game, or if you come across a new skill that you're not sure how to use, you can enter Practice mode. You're given the option to use any eight of the 52 lemming attributes, in one of four locations.

The control system in *Lemmings 2* works much the same as it did in the first game. For those of you who don't already know, various attributes are laid out in a panel at the bottom of the screen. Selecting a skill and clicking on a lemming gives that chosen skill to that particular lemming. You have to use the right skills in the right place in order to get as many lemmings as possible to the exit.

The four elements

Balloons, stick-on Icarus wings and hang gliders are 'Air' skills. Some lemmings utilise the superpower of unaided flight to get them across unbridgeable gaps. Most of the airborne skills take advantage of another new feature of the game – the fan. Clicking on the fan icon and holding the mouse button down will produce a stream of air from the cursor to propel airborne lemmings through the skies.

Among the water-loving lemmings are surfers, swimmers and divers. There are even ice skaters to deal with the frozen stretches of water in the cooler lands. Club bashers and scoopers can be made to dig through the earth, burrowing out a safe passage.

The gift of fire has also been discovered on the island. No rubbing sticks together though, the lemmings have bypassed the basics and gone straight to the flamethrowers. A lemming with this skill can blast through the landscape like a hot knife through margarine.

Imagine what you could do with boots like that. No more over-crowding on the bus, you can just hang from the ceiling!

Twice the number of trap doors doesn't necessarily mean twice the number of lemmings. But it usually means twice the amount of trouble. Skilful use of the pause button will help you here.

Another extra long level. This takes valuable time, but you know I do it just for you. This is one of the Beach levels, you can just make out the little guy swimming in the sea. Cute huh?

At first, having this number of skills available to you is a daunting prospect. More often than not you'll use completely the wrong type of earth mover at the beginning. Then you'll get stuck in a place where you need that particular attribute to escape.



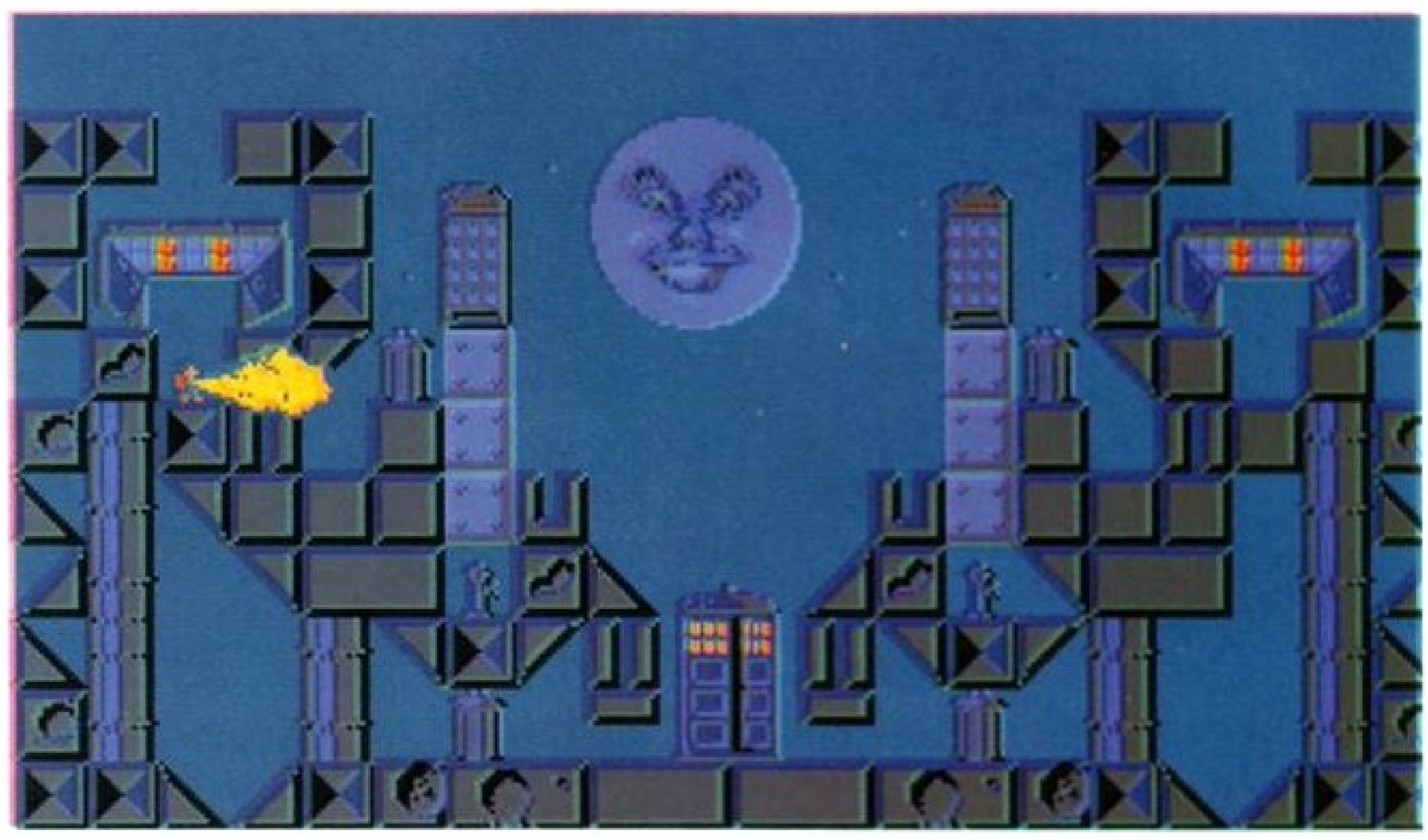
You'll need at least three goes before you work out exactly what's going on. If the try, try, try again method doesn't work for you, then the option is always there to go and play around with another tribe.

Clicking on the tribe's sector of the map screen will take you immediately (well almost) to that tribe's present position.

Lemmings 2 has no level codes. Games are saved on to disk, so make sure there's a formatted disk ready before you start. Otherwise you're liable to lose your hard work. The levels are so diverse that you're likely to forget how you completed a particular level if you have to go back to it again.

By the end of your first bash at cracking the puzzles, it's my bet that you'll really begin to feel for the little creatures. You feel despondent when you're concentrating on one part of the screen and the lemmings are making that familiar dying noise off screen.

More sampled squeaks than ever before abound. Each tribe has their own tune – and particularly lurvely the songs are too. The instruments used to create the songs range from bagpipes in the Highlands, to lutes in the Medieval zone. But, no matter how diverse the instrument, every tune seems to have a definite lemmings squeakiness about it.



If you eventually manage (believe me, it'll take weeks) to get all the tribes to the lake in the centre of the island then you are rewarded with a full talisman, and also the safe passage of the lemmings to pastures new.

Pieces of twelve

There are three achievement levels in the game, and three colours of talisman: a bronze talisman is awarded for a poor performance, silver for moderate and the highest accolade, gold for a perfect score. A gold piece is only awarded if you finish all 10 levels in a sector with the highest possible number of lemmings surviving to see another day.

All the way through, the game stays true to the original idea of *Lemmings*. The scrolling is extremely nippy, the puzzles are just tough enough and it's eminently playable.

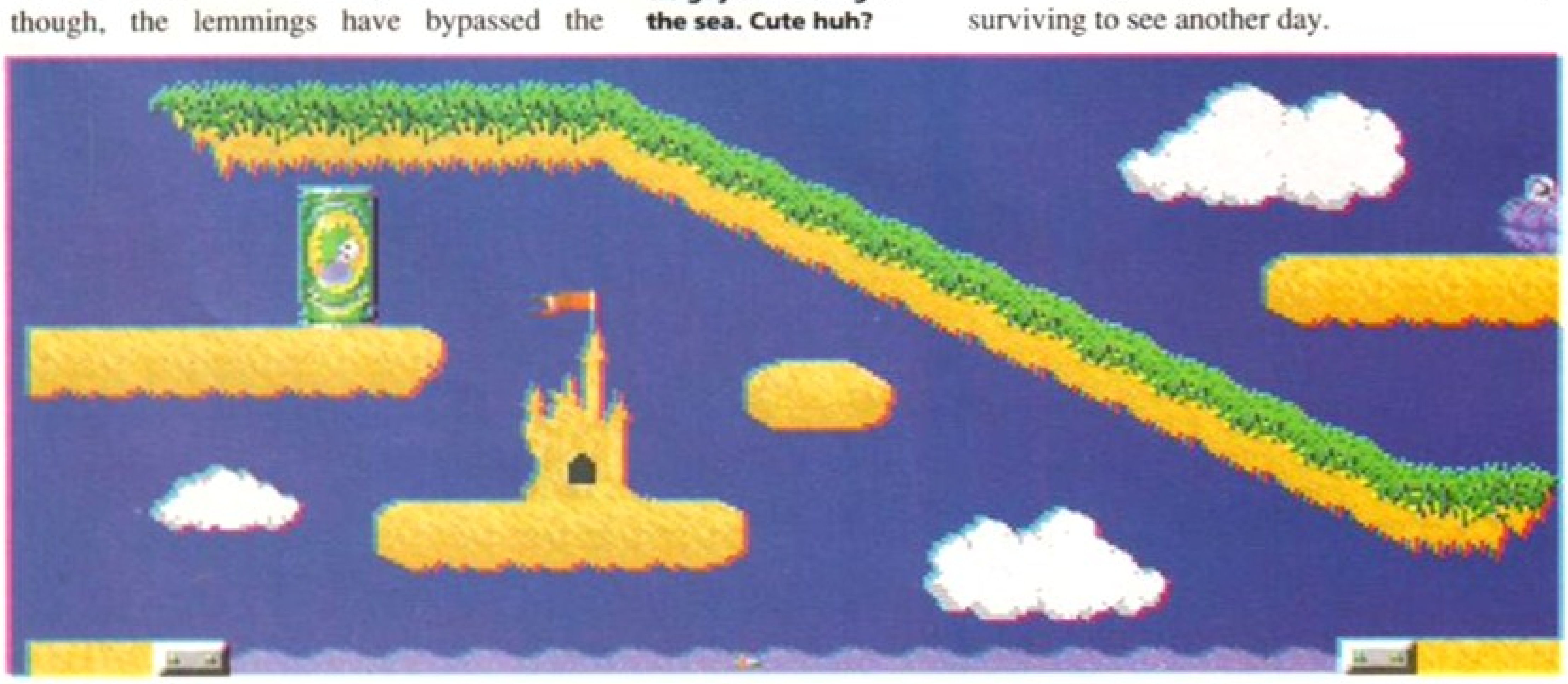
If this doesn't get to Number One and stay there for months, I'll eat my Easter bonnet, daffs and all.

Clare Hodgson

Lemmings 2 – The Tribes
Psygnosis ■ £29.99

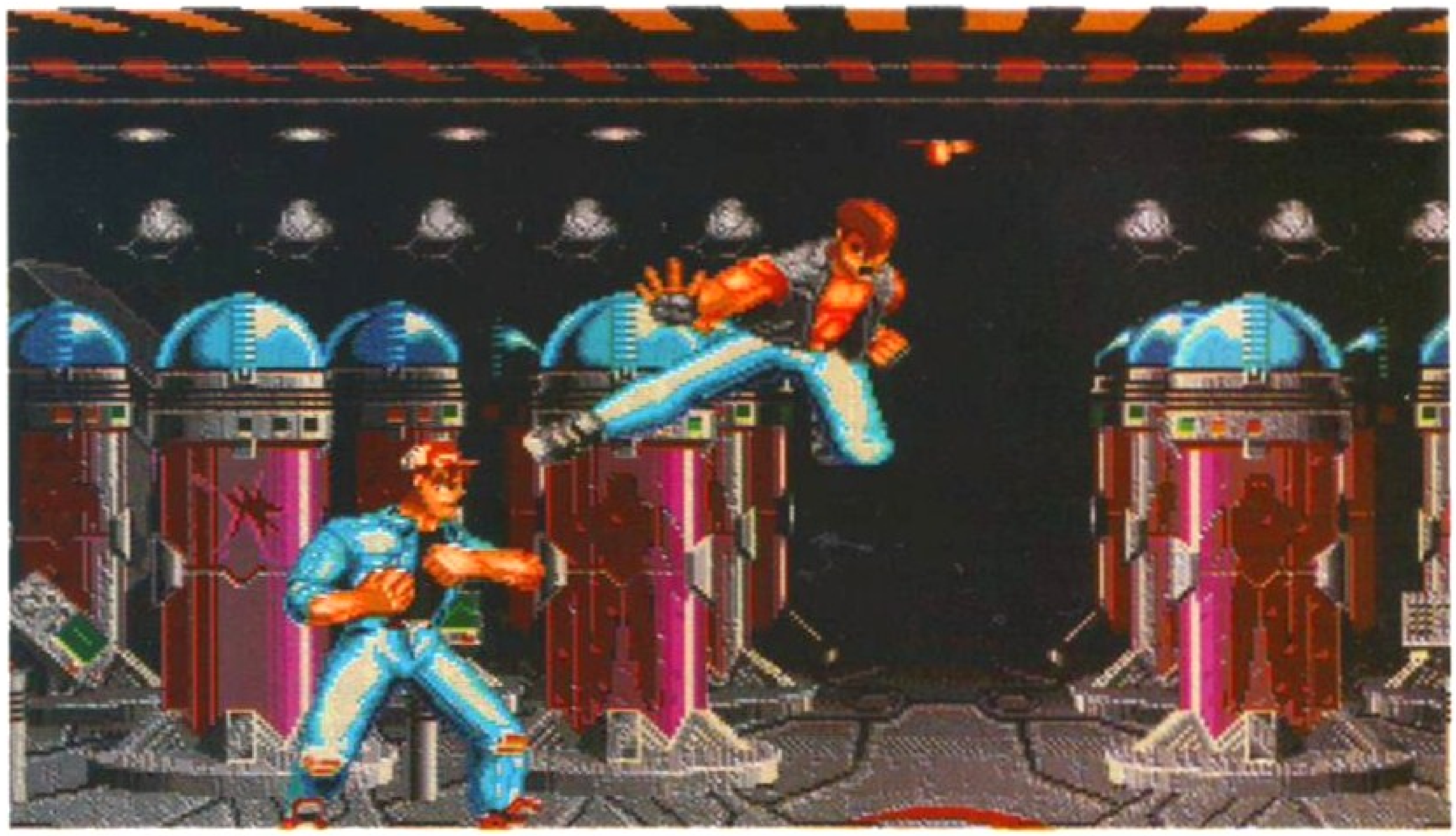
- **Having an ultimate objective adds to the addictiveness of the concept.**
- **The practice option comes in dead handy when you're faced with a new skill.**
- **If you get bored there's always the option of switching to a different tribe.**
- **Improvement on originally brilliant concept.**
- **Some of the levels are still dependent on pixel-perfect timing.**

AMIGA FORMAT GOLD **94%**



Team 17 have promised us that they've produced the best beat-em-up on Amiga! Is it streets ahead of its rival? Read on…





A fight set in a Russian laboratory. Dan vs Nik is always a crowd-puller, because it's the really cool one against the, erm, other really cool one. In fact, they're so alike they could be brothers. What's that? They are? Oh, blimey…

Body Blows

OK, let's cut the crap. I know what most of you want from this review, and that is whether or not *Body Blows* is better than *Streetfighter 2*. Well, to quickly put you out of your misery, you can be assured that it's, erm, streets ahead of the Amiga version of that game, so if you're a beat-em-up fan it's money well spent.

Unfortunately it still falls slightly short of the console version, but then *SF2* is the best game by far on the SNES so you have to ask yourself, "Is it worth shelling out the money for a console to play one beat-em-up, when I can buy *Body Blows* for my Amiga for under £30?" – and, of course, the answer to that is a resounding "No".

It's worth pointing out that I'm not a big fan of the Amiga *SF2* at all, and I considered the 87 per cent that we awarded the game back in ***AF***43 to be much too high a score – 70 or 75 per cent would be more like it – so bear that in mind when you read on.

What's *Streetfighter 2*?

If you've been sharing a bedsit with Salman Rushdie for the last year, you may not have heard about the console boom. The game *Streetfighter 2* is probably responsible for more console sales than any other game, with multi-million pound advertising campaigns stuck firmly behind it.

This hype carried over to the Amiga version of the game released just before Christmas, and reports in January suggested that sales of the Amiga game had reached 120,000 and still rising. That's an enormous amount, considering it was only an average conversion of the game.

Now, though, Amiga owners have got something to bark about, and it's all because of Team 17, the Yorkshire-based softies responsible for such classics as *Alien Breed* and *Project-X*. Their game is similar in style to *SF2*, with the characteristic large sprites, animated backgrounds and sampled effects.

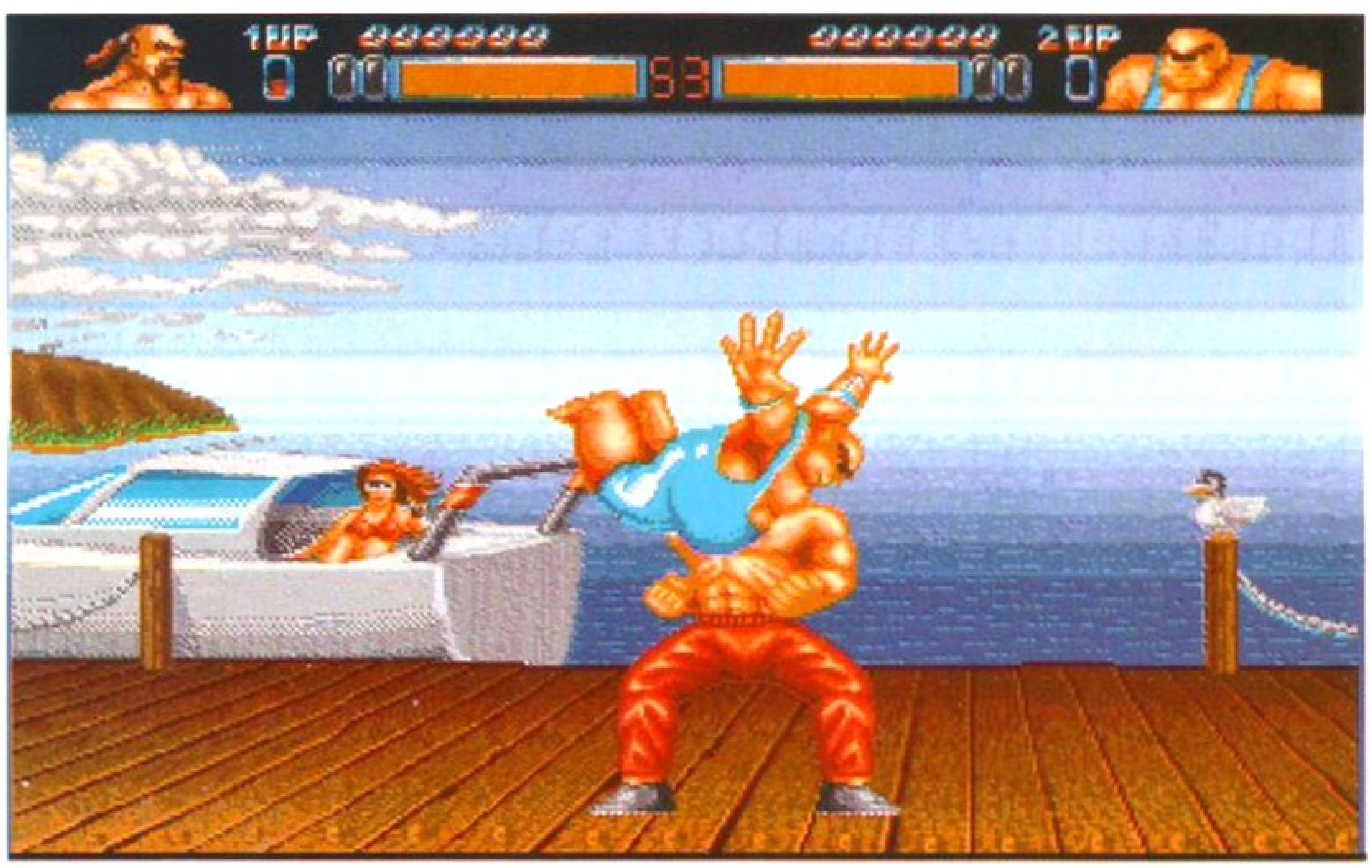
Maim that 'toon

For those of you not familiar, the plot of the game goes something like this: man fights man, man wins. Man fights another man, man wins. Man fights woman, man wins – and continues in this way until man loses.

The details aren't important, except to say you can play one of four characters, and you must fight another nine opponents in separate contests so that you may be crowned winner. Each of the characters are completely different in terms of agility and abilities, so during the course of the tournament you face plenty of different challenges.

NEEDS 1 MEG

Contact: Team 17
0924 291867



Dug demonstrates his amazing 'flying blubber' technique, where he glues his belly to his opponent's head.

Fortunately, Kossak's built of sterner stuff, and he's having none of it. The duck and the babe behind look impressed.



As the fight moves to the left and right, the screen scrolls along accordingly. This is a view of the Shaolin Temple level, made possible due to the wonders of technology.

Junior hits Maria below the waist. Still, they don't seem to follow the Queensbury rules in *Body Blows*, so it's not as though he's going to be disqualified.

The players' distinctive characteristics are accentuated by their heavily caricatured features, such as Dug with his huge beer-gut and shovel hands, or Ninja with his huge sword and black balaclava helmet. It's very realistic in a cartoony sort of way.

The sound is mostly good quality too, with a tune to match each of the seven different fight settings and lots of sampled speech, which give the game a good atmosphere.

Control is via a normal one-button joystick (which is one-up on the console counterparts), and different combinations of directions and the fire-button will enable you to perform different moves.

As well as the normal punch/kick moves, each character has between two and five special abilities, such as energy bolts and whirlwind kicks. To get an idea of the different players' abilities, see below.

Fighting takes place in seven different areas, including the Shaolin Temple and Ninja Cavern, along with some additional scenes such as a Russian Laboratory and a building site. As with *SF2*, there is no interaction between the scenery and the characters, but it's pretty and includes the odd bit of animation.

Feel the power

So, we've established that it looks good and it sounds good, so where does it lose out? Although it's extremely playable, and offers an excellent challenge, it does have its problems – however nit-picky they may be.

For the most part, the collision detection between characters generally works well, but when Dan tries an upper cut, he can miss his opponent by half an inch or so and yet still magically make contact (like I said, nit-picky but noticeable). All the characters have something good going for them apart from Maria, who is stupidly thin, and doesn't so much yell as squawk as she kicks you in the face.



Ninja's got his tool out, but little does he know Maria's about to get him in the Busters.

Finally, there isn't as much 'feel' as we expected from the game. The 'feel' factor of a game isn't easily defined, but there is something lacking – it just seems a little bit too clinical and robotic.

Still, this is far and away the best Amiga beat-em-up ever. It's technically excellent, polished, and it brings up-to-date an area of the Amiga which has been sadly lacking recently. If you already have *Streetfighter 2*, sell it and buy *Body Blows*.

Andy Nuttall

SOME OF THE BODIES YOU COME TO BLOWS WITH...



NIK
This character is not as wimpy as his phenomenal, Eighties pop star namesake Mr Kershaw. This Nik is instead pretty hip, sporting trainers and baseball cap. Oh, and he's a bit hard as well, especially when he uses his Inner Energy to produce a bolt of sheer power.



YIT–U
This guy only has two special moves, but one of them is probably the most effective. Speed of Light causes him to advance on his opponent speedily, leaving a blur behind him. Once he's started, it's difficult to stop him – even jumping out of the way is nigh on impossible.



KOSSAK
Although he is slow-moving, he is incredibly strong and has three special abilities. Earthcharge is handy, because it electrifies the floor around Kossak and kills anyone nearby. The most bizarre special is Driller Killer, where he twirls his way into the floor, only to later reappear in a nearby spot.



DUG
Well, this bloke's just obese, really. He seems to use his vastly overweight body to his advantage, by jumping up and down on the spot and causing major earthquakes, thereby defeating his opponent through mere vibration. Also, he has a neat (and gravity-defying) way of leaping and dive-bombing his enemies, and squashing them under his mounds of flab. Urgh.

Body Blows
Team 17 ■ £26.99

- Not as good as the console *SF2*, but it's a very close thing.
- Huge characters with loads of abilities, and they move really quickly.
- Loads of sampled speech and effects.
- Play one-player, two-player, or up to eight players in tournament mode.
- Keeps violence out of the playground.

AMIGA FORMAT Verdict 87%

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Not all games about the Middle East have to be based on military hardware, as Krisalis prove with their new cute platformer cum puzzler.





Here, as you've completed a level successfully, it's time for the obligatory strip search by the nice customs officer. If you've been good, all he'll do is take all your money and keep it safe for you. If you've been bad he'll set Biffa the dog on you.

Arabian Nights



By day, Sinbad Jnr is a humble apprentice gardener, whose only royal connection is the plants he tends in the palace garden. By night, he's the secret love of the beautiful princess Laila.

But alas, Laila's father (the Caliph) requires a large quantity of green stuff (and I don't mean leaves) to convince him that Junior is the right man to marry his precious daughter. Apprentice gardeners do not earn much, even those who tend the palace greenery.

Meanwhile, in a castle far away, the evil Vizier is plotting his evil plans. One day he intends to rule the kingdom, but first, he wants to marry the princess, and secondly, push the king off some tower in a few years time.

The Vizier has never attended any charm school, so in place of the usual romantic proposal he arranges for a demon to sweep the princess off her feet, and cast a spell over the kingdom so that no-one notices. Cunning eh?

Don't desert me

The demon is caught in the act, though, by the ever vigilant Junior who climbs the walls in search of his lost love. But as he gets there, the demon lifts off with the bride-to-be and leaves Sinbad to face the music with the palace guard who, in a fit of understanding unique to his profession, throw him into the dungeons and leave him to rot.

Here's where you come in. All you've got to do is get out of the dungeon, fight any creature that crosses your path, destroy the evil Vizier and rescue your true love. Simple, non? So strike a heroic pose, let the light glint off your teeth, brandish your sword as though you know what you're doing and get on with it.

Getting out of the dungeon is not as simple as it may seem. There are puzzles to solve, treasure chests to open, currency to collect and nasty enemies to destroy with your mighty sword. Just because you're called Junior doesn't mean you can't hack-and-slash along with the best of them. There is also help at hand in the form of flashing light bulbs and friendly citizens who haven't fallen under the spell of the evil Vizier.

The gameplay is an easy mix of platform and puzzle and like most games of this genre, try and pick up anything that isn't nailed down. The puzzles are straightforward if you employ a little lateral thinking, but to progress through the game you'll have to solve them all.

When one needs to be solved, a flashing light bulb appears above your head to offer you a clue. Some of the clues are obvious, but as you can't get killed while you read them, waste a little time in the pursuit of knowledge.

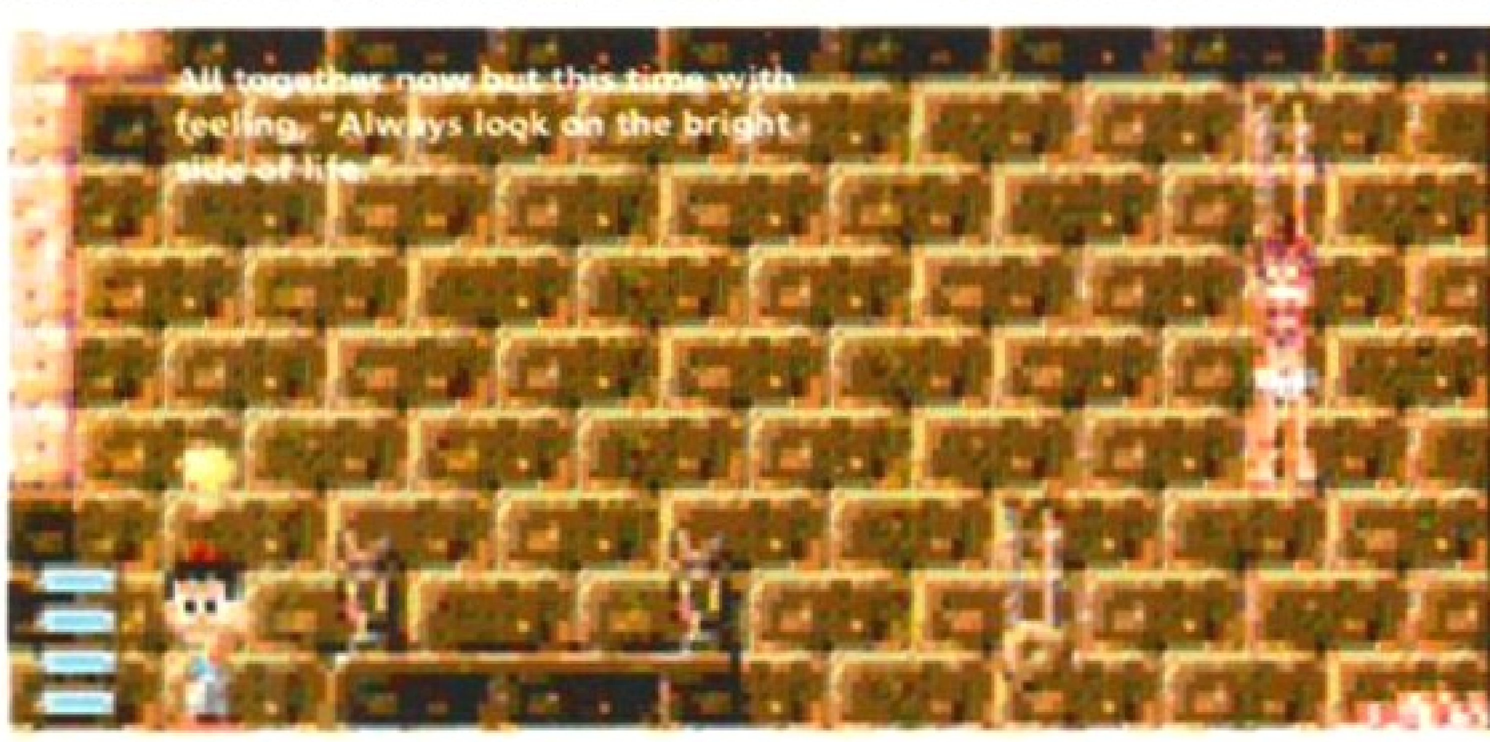
ARABIAN NIGHTS is available from Krisalis 0709 372290

Points are found in the form of local currency. In the dungeon these are gems, on other levels they are skulls, fish skeletons and other weird things. Collect as much currency as you can, it may be required for some puzzles.

The current total, along with other items picked up, are shown on the inventory screen, which is accessed by pressing the space-bar. Secret passages are dotted around the levels, which lead to secret rooms filled with treasure.

Strange customs

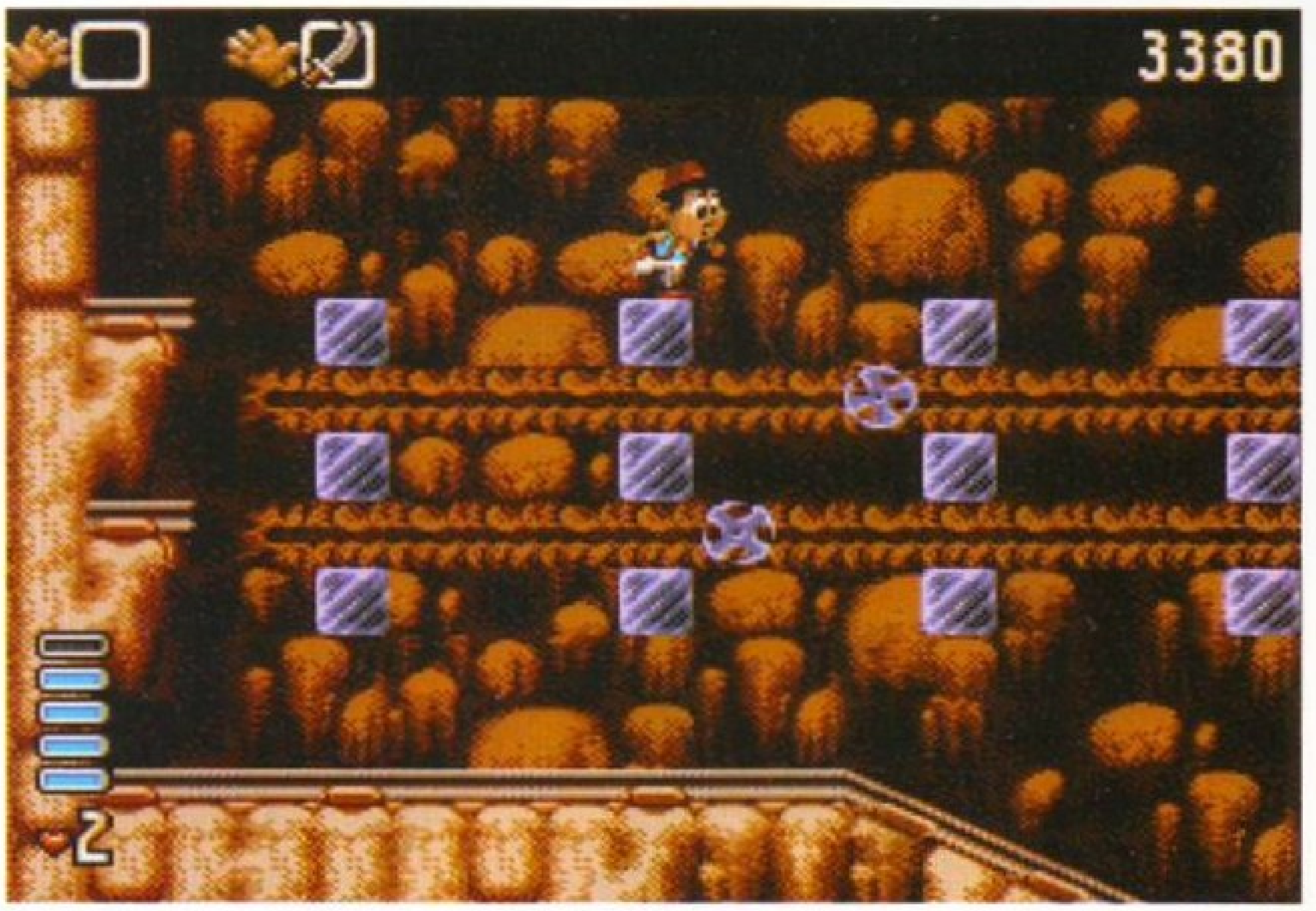
There are nine levels to complete, but only four of them have end-of-level guardians to kill before you can progress. When you complete a level, because you are hopping over to another country, you will have to face the dreaded customs officer. Don't worry though,



All together now but this time with feeling, "Always look on the bright side of life."



Now here's a puzzle if ever I saw one. How on Earth can a snake charmer help you?



Definition of frustration – falling off a blue block for the umpteenth time while being chased by blue firey windmills. It's funny but these bits always get to you. Aarrggghhhhhh...

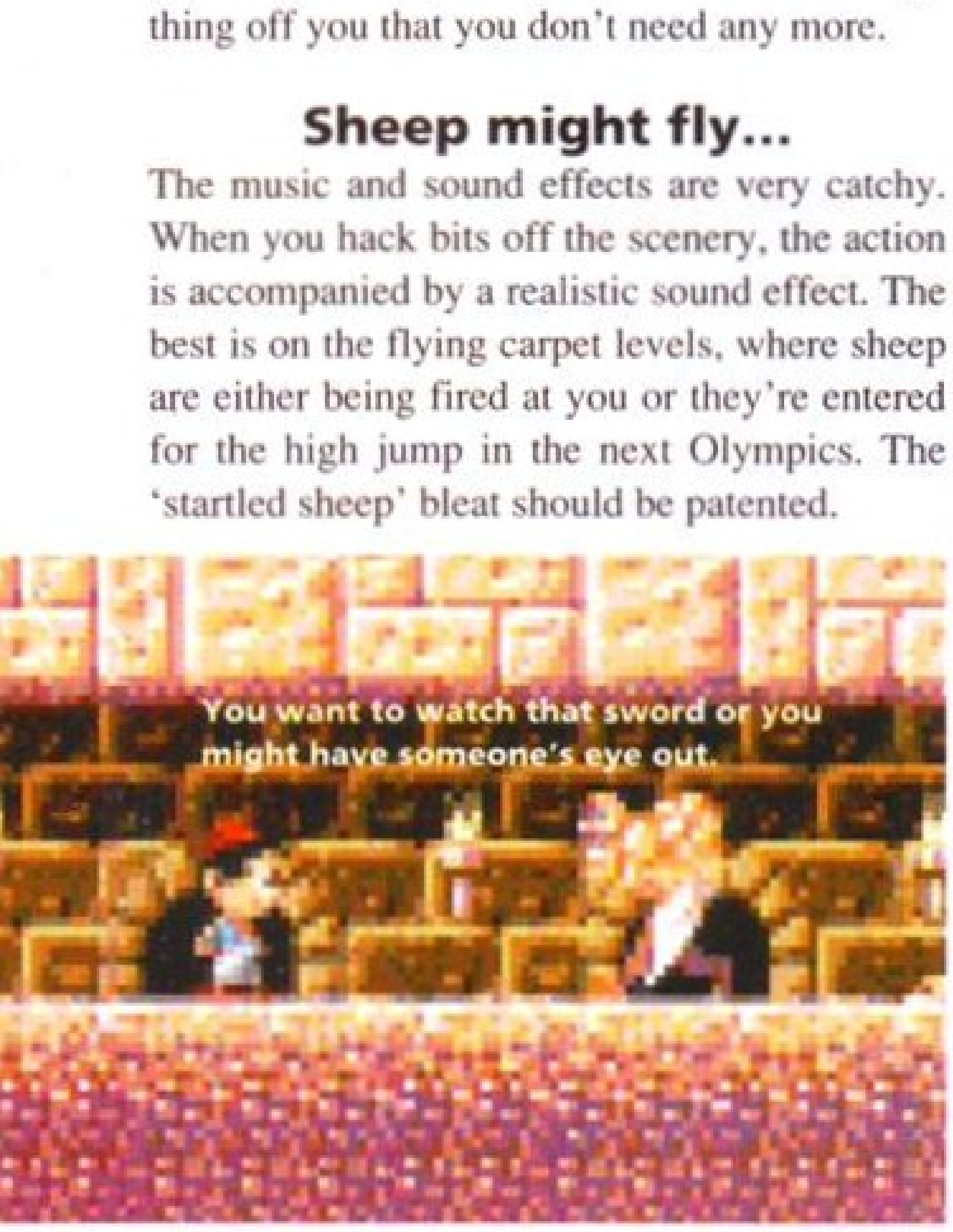


I love it when it snows. But I didn't think they had snow in Arabia. Can I play with my sledge after I've finished rescuing the beautiful princess? No? Well can I play with the nice snowmen instead?

because there's no risk of a quick strip search. His job is simply to convert your currency into points, and to lighten your load and take anything off you that you don't need any more.

Sheep might fly...

The music and sound effects are very catchy. When you hack bits off the scenery, the action is accompanied by a realistic sound effect. The best is on the flying carpet levels, where sheep are either being fired at you or they're entered for the high jump in the next Olympics. The 'startled sheep' bleat should be patented.



Much of the gameplay seems familiar, but as a mixture of different ideas and style this works really well. There is plenty of atmosphere, built up by the music and effects, which make the game pretty addictive.

But at the end of the day, it's a pretty futile quest. I mean, will the beautiful princess really want to marry an ex-prisoner, even if he did save her life?

Sarah Tanser

Arabian Nights
£25.99

- Good graphics and well-animated monsters.
- If the game doesn't suck you in, you'll be humming the music for months.
- Tempted towards a Gold for the sheep bleating alone.
- Plenty to do to keep you occupied.

Amiga Format Verdict **80%**



Ready for your first mission, adrenaline pumping, you dash to the chopper in this excellent animated intro sequence. Before you know it, you'll be in the thick of the action, being shot at from all angles. Only the best pilots survive all the missions.



Seeing as I'm such a nice chap, I stopped along the way to pick up some stranded soldiers.

Desert Strike

You've all seen the war on TV, and now it's your chance to *Return to the Gulf*. But be careful not to get sand kicked in your face.

Somewhere in the depths of the Middle East, a madman by the name of General Kilbaba has taken over a rich Arab Emirate and is planning to end the world by killing us all with a nasty cocktail of nuclear and chemical weapons. In true John Wayne fashion, Mr President (of the good ole USA – where else?) has decided to send in you and your trusty Apache helicopter to sort out the situation and hopefully avert Armageddon.

Sounds familiar? You'd not be wrong to say that this game has been influenced by a certain military operation that happened a couple of years ago in a country not a million miles away from Saudi Arabia.

This time it's just you against the might of the Iraqi – sorry, not Iraqi, – I mean General Kilbaba's terrorist army. You're in an Apache attack helicopter, while the enemy has soldiers armed with AK47s, anti-aircraft missiles, gunboats, helicopters and tanks.

Arabs with attitude

An excellent intro sequence takes you into the game, with some nicely drawn animations, and a good rave-type soundtrack. Quite what this has got to do with battles in the desert I don't know, but it's rather good anyway.

The game is broken up into several missions, which are then split into several tasks, such as destroying a radar installation, and destroying an airfield. Completing one mission gives you the password to start the next one. There's no way that you'll be able to complete the missions on the stocks of fuel and weapons that you start out with, but fortunately, the enemy have been considerate enough to leave some lying around. A number of your soldiers are wandering around in enemy territory. They shout 'Over here!' very loudly when you spot them. Picking them up and dropping them back at the coastal landing site helps to replace the armour chipped away by enemy fire.

NEEDS 1 MEG

Contact:
Electronic Arts
0753 549442

You control your helicopter with the joystick and keyboard. As you'd expect, the joystick tilts the helicopter, moving you forwards or backwards, which takes a bit of time to get used to. The fire-button fires your chosen weapon, and the space-bar switches between the three available.

You spin me round

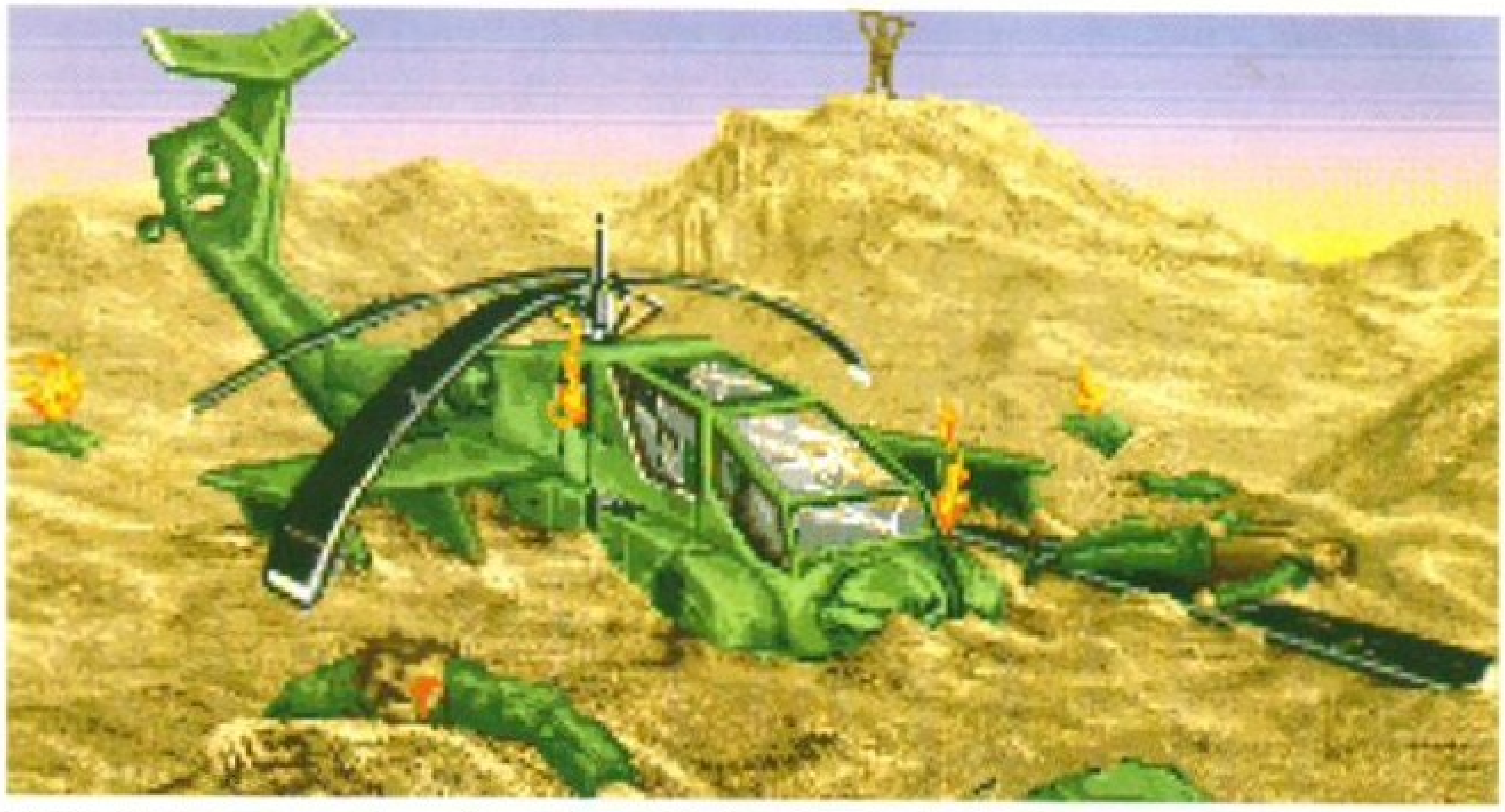
It's also possible to control the helicopter by using the keyboard or the mouse, but using this is nigh on impossible, because you inevitably end up spinning all over the place. Pressing



"There's a great kebab shop at the corner of Saddam Avenue and Khomeini Street. Your mission is to get one large doner, with extra chilli sauce." Stormin' Norman places his order for the next instalment in the Gulf.

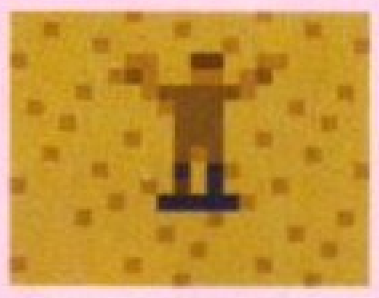


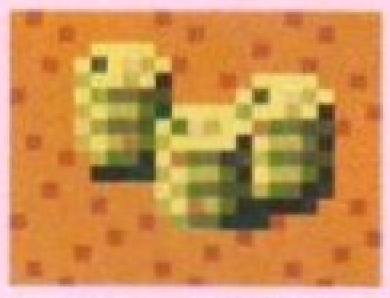
The control panel of your multi-million dollar helicopter is your window on the world. Well, desert. Without this, it's Mission Extremely Difficult.

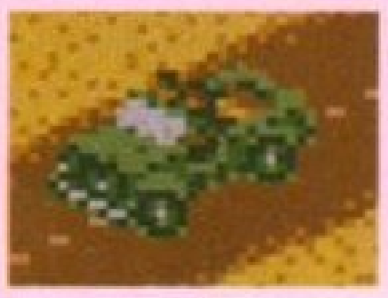

Death, is, they say, merely another point on the karmic wheel of birth and rebirth. So I'm going to be reborn as a helicopter pilot a few seconds later. Bad Karma!

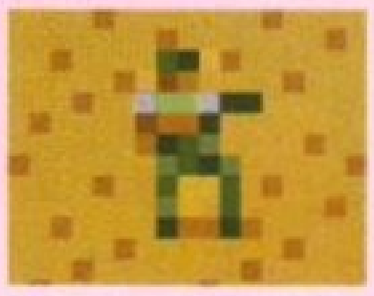
THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO BOOM!

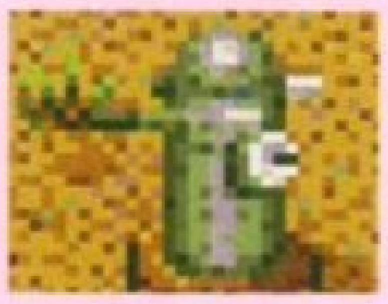

Enemy anti-aircraft guns can be a pain in the fuselage.

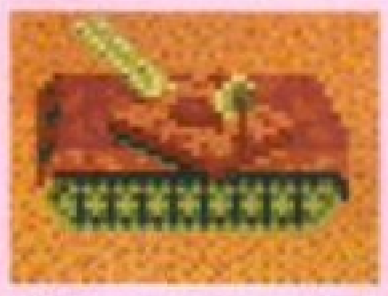

Picking up your MIAs is a very kind thing to do, right.

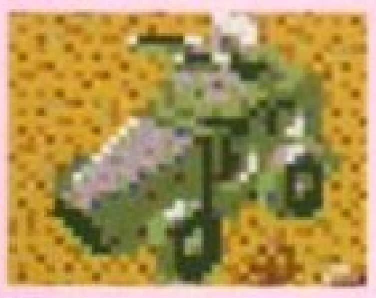

No, not a barrel of laughs but gallons of extra fuel.


Jeeps can't hit you, but you can blast the hell out of them.


Enemy soldier. Pick them off because they kill your MIAs.


This Rapier can do a lot more damage than 'Metal Mickey'.


Tanks sort of move around a bit and they shoot you.


Armoured cars are slow, but extremely obstinate enemies.


Your enemy leaves boxes of weapons lying around. Great!

F10 puts you into the map screen, which shows your location, and the various other targets awaiting your pleasure.

The map also contains details of where you can find fuel and armaments, and where the Missing In Action (MIA) soldiers are located. You're supplied with information on each mission, and are given new objectives as you work through the missions.

Desert Strike runs in a 3D, isometric sort of viewpoint, which takes a bit of getting used to. Unfortunately, this means that objects sometimes disappear behind others, but this is only a small inconvenience. Steering the helicopter is something of an acquired habit, because it takes a bit of time to get used to the angle of view.


Guilty of wearing a beret, dark glasses and a beard. He probably smokes as well.

How sandy is my desert

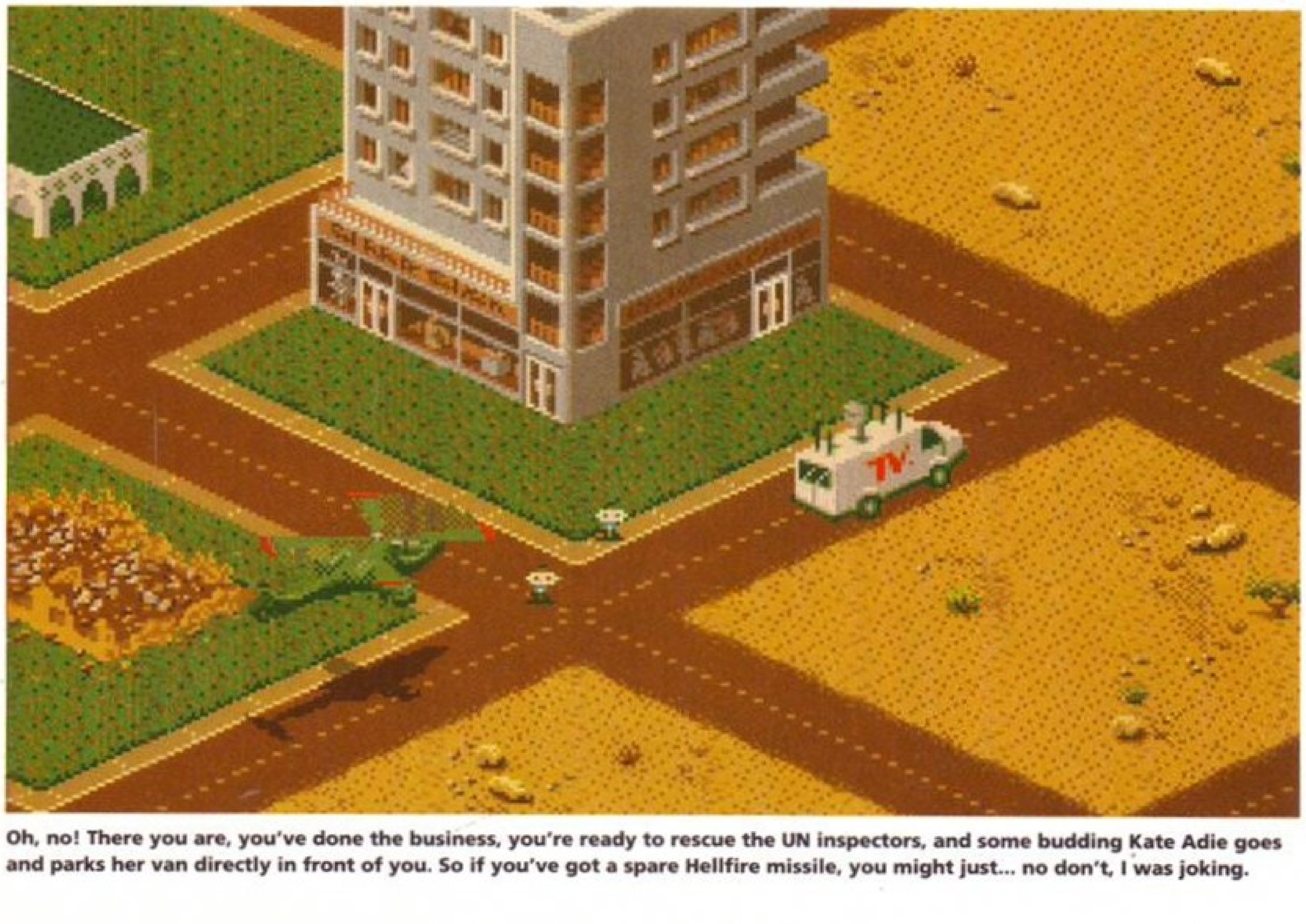
There are plenty of sound effects, ranging from whirring rotor noises, loud explosions and your soldiers shouting "Over here!". These all add to the atmosphere, and there's always plenty going on. Unfortunately, it's too much at times, and occasionally one of the sounds doesn't work, or one is cut off in the middle. However, it's more of an irritation than a problem, especially if you're a fussy so and so like me.

The graphics are well drawn and smooth, although the background is a bit jittery, but because the helicopter is smoothly drawn, you're not likely to notice. The game runs in extra half-bright mode, which means that you can get realistic shadows, and extremely effective-looking explosions, although these sometimes seem to be in the wrong place.

Previous efforts at combining flight sims and shoot-em-ups have been less than successful, so it's great to see Electronic Arts pull off this tricky combination. *Desert Strike* has got more going for it than the average shoot-em-up and should appeal to those interested in strategy games. It also retains the excitement of blasting the enemy to dust.

Strike while the desert is hot!

Richard Baguley



Oh, no! There you are, you've done the business, you're ready to rescue the UN inspectors, and some budding Kate Adie goes and parks her van directly in front of you. So if you've got a spare Hellfire missile, you might just... no don't, I was joking.

Desert Strike
EA ■ £29.99

- Successful cross between a shoot-em-up and a flight simulator.
- Great graphics, good sounds.
- Missions are interesting and varied.
- Occasional glitches in sound and vision, but these don't deter from the gameplay.
- Tremendous fun to play.
- Dakka dakka dakka! Kaboom!

Verdict **87%**

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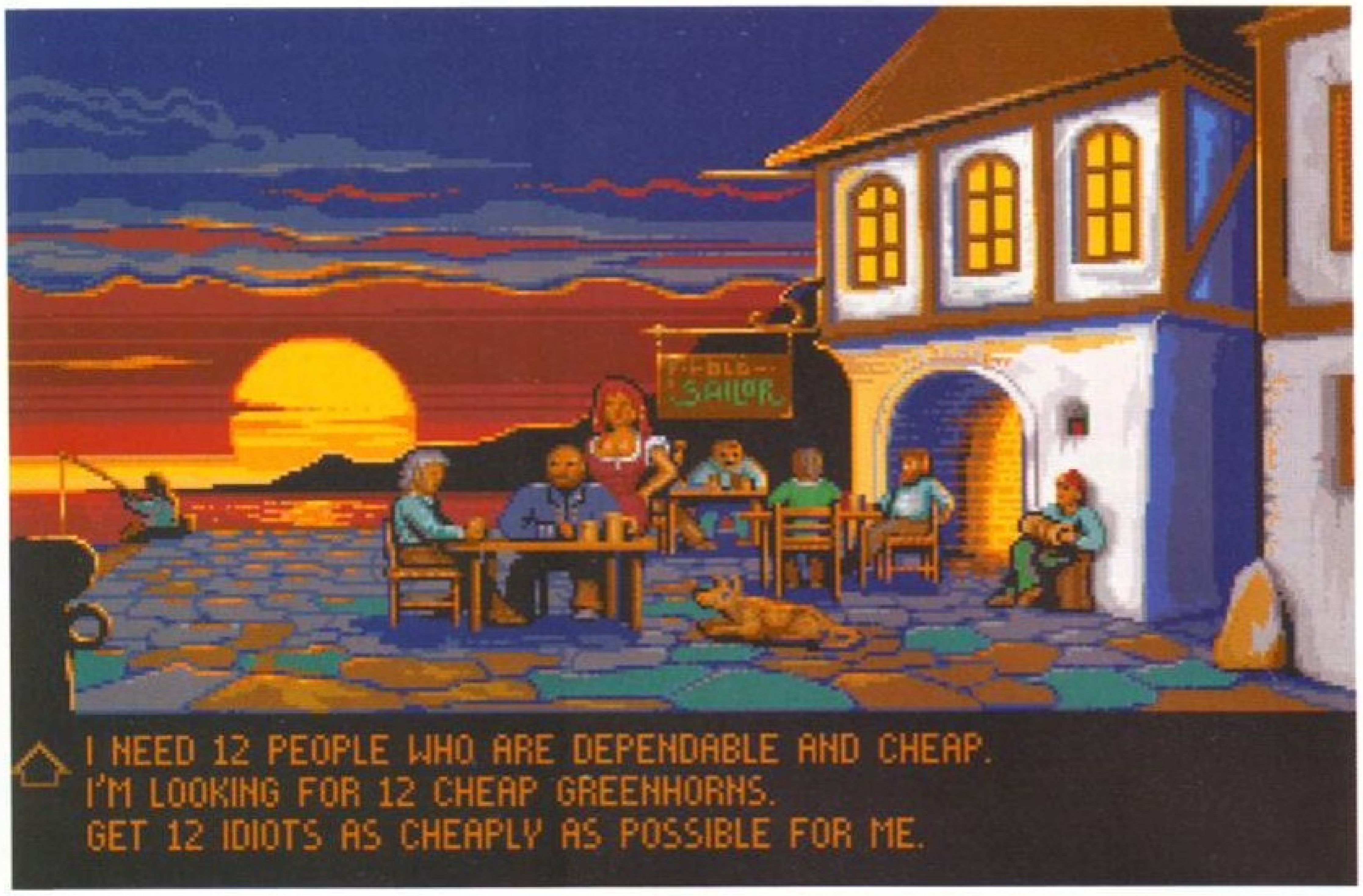
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Which computer(s), if any, do you own? 68M

It's a vicious battle to rule the seven seas, in what is one of the best multiplayer games yet seen on the Amiga!



This is very much the bottom end of the labour market, but with a decent ship you don't need an America's Cup-quality crew. Given a bit of on-the-job training they'll soon shape up – and they won't cost much either!

1869

This game takes its title from the year that the Suez canal was opened. The authors decided that this year, more than any other, marked a decline from the old age of sailing ships, to the succeeding steam-powered ships. And people say propellor heads are dull...

You, and up to three other players are traders, starting off in the year 1854. The idea is to build up a successful fleet of ships, open warehouses round the globe, and prey off both the new empires of the developing world and the raw material providers of the third. Guess who gets the rawer deals. Hmm, it's not as if they could've set the game in this century now is it? (*Little bit of politics – Ed.*)

In single-player mode, after setting how long you play for (from five to 26 years) you choose your headquarter's location and are plunged straight into the game. Your base of operations can be in London, Liverpool, Le Harvre, New York or Savannah. Each place has its own advantages and disadvantages.

In multiplayer mode, you get an extra treat – the ship auctions. All players go along and bid against each other for a starting ship. A certain amount of physical prowess is useful to beat the others to the mouse, but of course this is optional.

Infamy! Infamy!

1869 is a graphical point-and-click management simulation. You don't have to play via a mouse – keyboard control is much faster, and less dependent on the dubious quality of Commodore mouse buttons. But it does take more practice to master this control method.

Buying and selling ships is a skill in its own right. Most new players opt for steamships straightaway, but this is a very dumb move, because in 1854 coal was expensive, so sailboats are a much better option. Used ships are preferable to brand new ones, since they can be commissioned straight from a shipyard, if the port you are in has one.

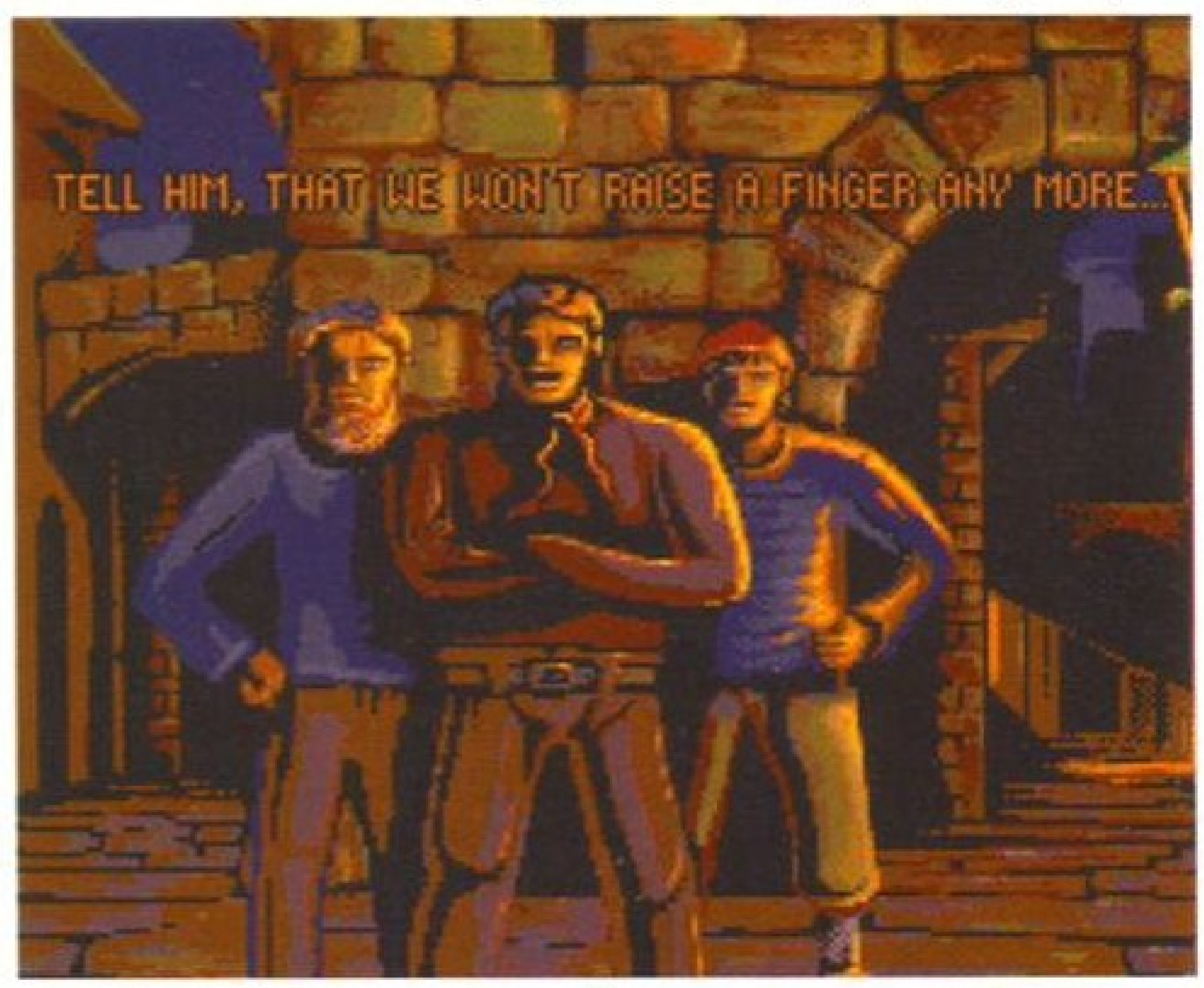
Buying cargo is much more straightforward. Point and click at the port you are in, and the merchant's screen comes up. A merchant may have nothing to sell, because some products are seasonal. In a well-developed area, up to two commodities may be up for grabs. If your HQ is in the port, you can store excess quantities. You can also open warehouses wherever you go, if you have the cash.

Cash is the big problem. Most places sell things, but merchants are choosy about what they buy. They will always offer you a price

Contact:
Flair Software
0661 860260



Hmm, the crew are getting close to mutiny. Then again, they have been working without a break for six whole months – better give them a day off or they'll do a runner.



Oops, went a bit too far. Overstretching your crew means that new crews are more wary of sailing with you, and so are more expensive.



This is the main playing screen. Click on the world map to scroll around the Earth – click with the right button to; get information; go to the pub; buy, sell and repair ships; and visit your warehouse. Simple and fast – just how I like it!

on merchandise, but if they don't want it then you'll make a loss. Small quantities fetch better prices than huge shipments, but getting small quantities of anything is not easy.

At the top right of the screen is the date. You click on this for time to move on, and time can literally change the whole game. There's little point trying to sneak into Savannah for cotton during the American Civil War (1862-1865) because you'll get caught by blockaders most of the time. Running arms to Odessa during the Crimean War is similarly fraught with peril. Sure, if you make it then the payoff is huge – but you don't make it often enough to make it a good business exercise.





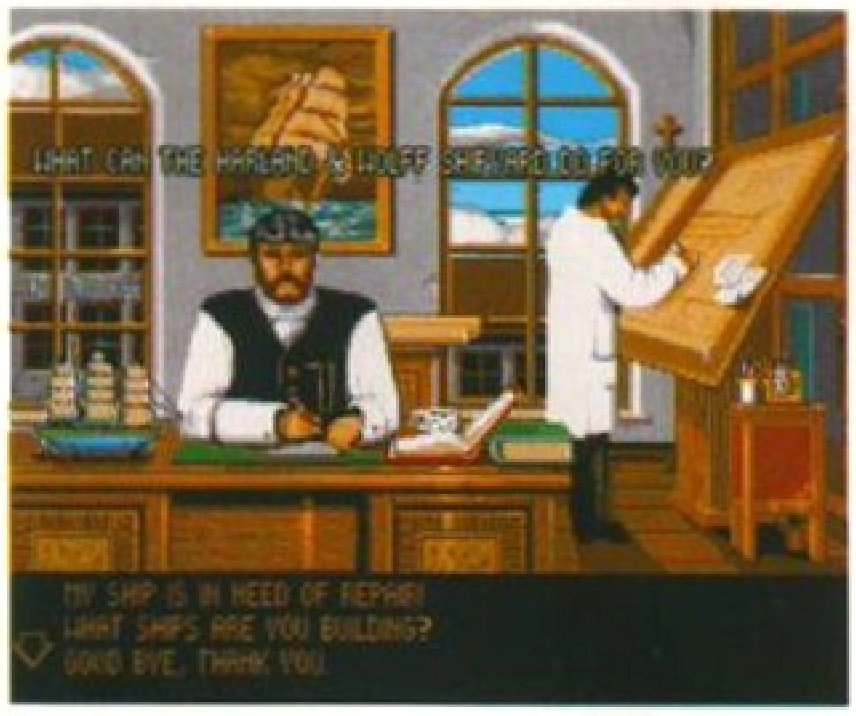
Ich bin ein manual

Most of the noteworthy events in the timeline are mentioned in the manual. This quite lengthy tome is unlike any other I've seen. It's got the historical detail of the *Wings* (**AF**16-79 per cent) manual, the get-started quick section of a MicroProse manual, and quite a few Germglish howlers that have had me in stitches. It makes damned-good reading, though the translators' English is a lot better than my Deutsch.

It's truly unique, a bit over the top in places and totally sanitised in others. The lengthy description of New World passenger conditions is quite stomach turning, but there's no mention of flogging – a common form of punishment for the era.

Is it any fun? Well, in solo-player mode, it lacks depth. It has some humorous animations, but you don't get enough in the way of difficulty levels or different scenarios. Initially it does seem like a one-track game – well that's how I felt after 10 hours of play.

After those 10 hours, though, I tried playing against some friends. Then the game changed. You see, if you buy up the goods from a port, or heavily supply goods to a port, then the other players suffer if they try the same run but come second. You have cornered the market and there's not a lot they can do.



Different shipwrights build different vessels. The British use iron, Americans go for wood.

OK, to be honest after a couple of hours they sussed me out, and *1869* became a mother of all battles. We staged 'real' tea races to see who could run the fastest shipments of illegals, who could grab the richest markets right from under your nose. This naturally led to alliances, power groups, treaties and all sorts of other mayhem. The timeline may stay the same, but the way you play alters the game every time. A bit like chess, but much more subtle and less headache inducing.

Social animal

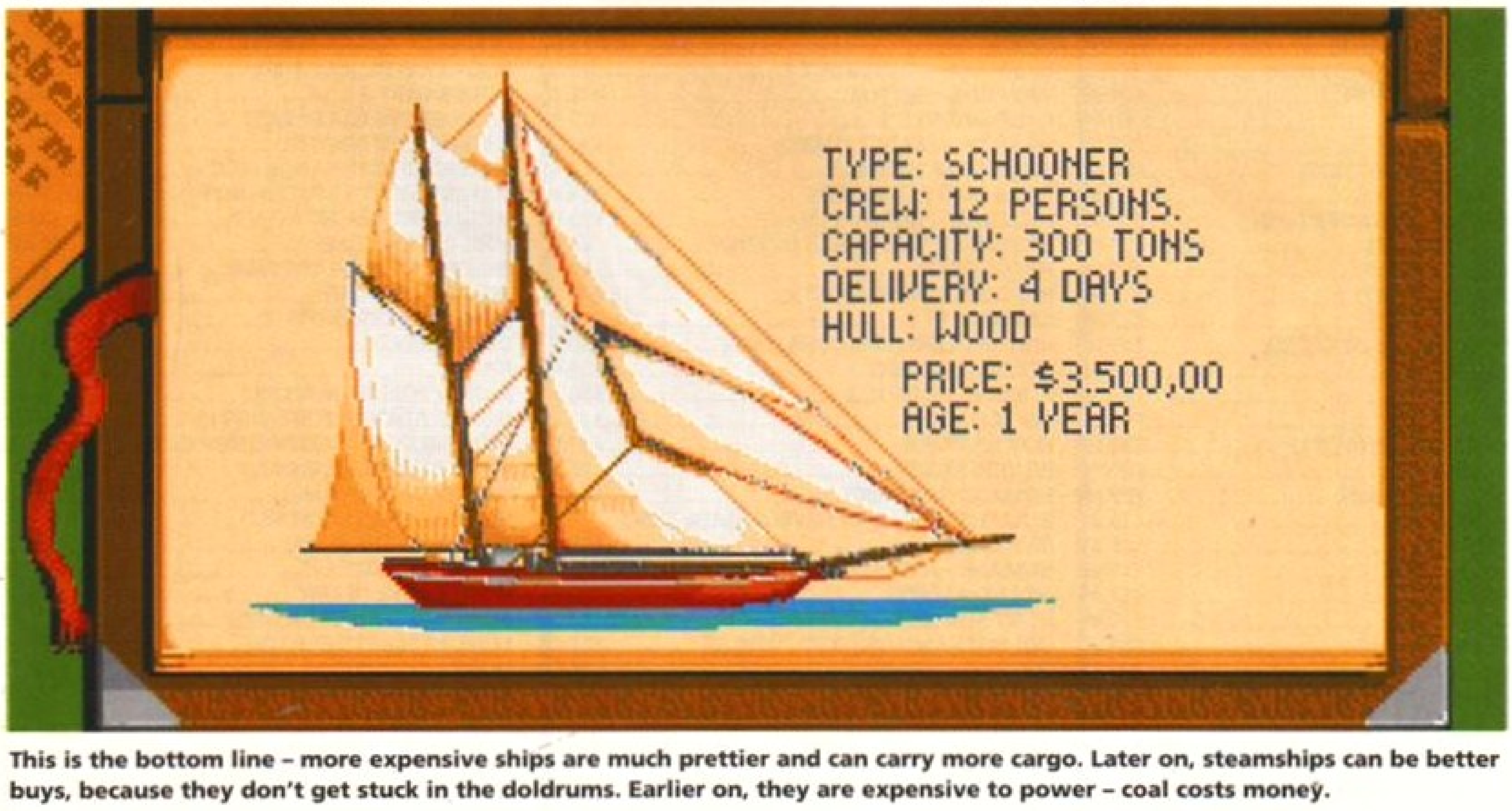
If you never play computer games socially, that is with other people, then you probably won't like *1869*. Well, unless you're heavily into management simulations and like making naval logs to map out the world markets.

I found it just too pointless in solo-player mode, it's also very, very difficult. The straw that breaks your bank is the taxman, who calls at the end of every year. How true to life.

Usually, I prefer to play games that are more escapist than this. But I did get this one insight from it – merchant navy captains of the last century were often inhumane. The reason why is quite simply that the job demanded it – you had to be in order to stay in business, let alone make a profit. It's naïve to judge people from yesterday by today's standards.

If you're heavily into 19th century nautical history, or you play on an Amiga with other enlightened beings, and the idea of pretending to be a hard-nosed, back-stabbing, scrupulous capitalist appeals to you, then go buy this game. Just be prepared to play like a real Thatcherite.

Pat McDonald



This is the bottom line – more expensive ships are much prettier and can carry more cargo. Later on, steamships can be better buys, because they don't get stuck in the doldrums. Earlier on, they are expensive to power – coal costs money.

1869
Max Design ■ £29.99

- Fairly easy to get the hang of, and fun to get into, especially with friends.
- Rather tricky to stay in business – you have to be fairly ruthless.
- Good graphics with some short, but quite brilliant animations.
- Average beat box noises.
- One of the best multiplayer games you can get that only needs one Amiga.

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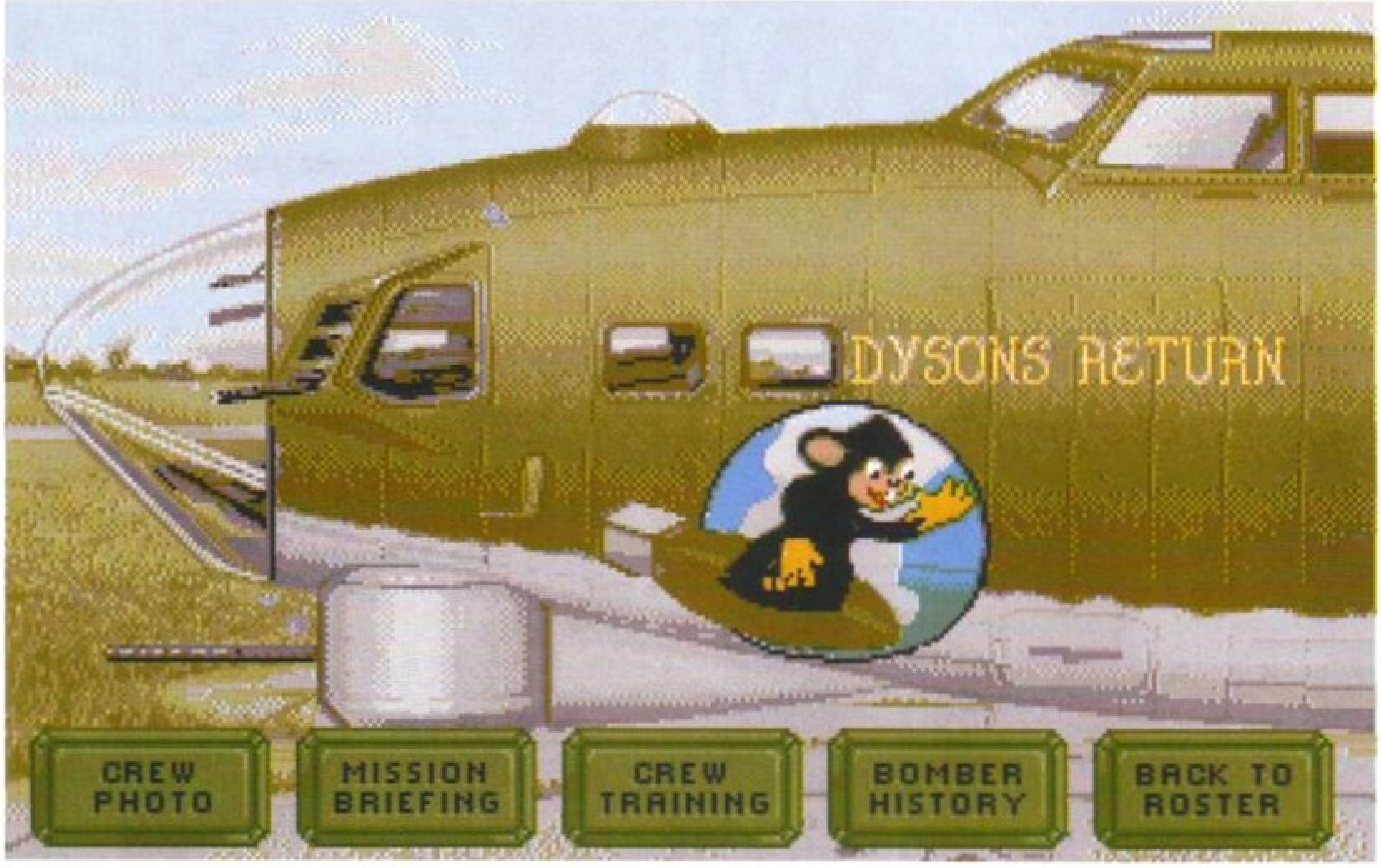
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Do you want a flight sim that takes more than joystick-waggling to master? Well then, do MicroProse have a simulation for you!



You can select your own nose art for your plane, in true World War II fashion. Various buxom wimmin are available. I however decided to go for the less traditional, and altogether less saucy picture.

B17 Flying Fortress

Let's get one thing straight. This isn't your normal flight simulator, where you leap into the cockpit and destroy the entire German/Russian/Iraqi airforce within the first five minutes, using your super hi-tec megadeath missiles. This one is going to take you a long time to learn about, and a long time to really get to grips with.

As you may have guessed, this game is based on the B17 Flying Fortress, which was first unveiled on 16 July 1935. After the US declared war on Germany in 1941, the 8th Air Force was sent to England to join the British in the high-altitude precision bombing of occupied Europe. Which is where you come in....

Overpaid and over there

The manual contains a wealth of information on the history and tactics of bombing and bombers, but it's a little sparse on flying the plane. I would have preferred a bit more on the mechanics of using the bombsight and a bit less on the history of the British bombing campaign 1940-41. There's a good run-through of a typical combat mission, but it would have been better if it had been related to the game itself, with screenshots showing the sort of thing you're likely to come across. I'd recommend you give the manual a thorough read through before starting the game.

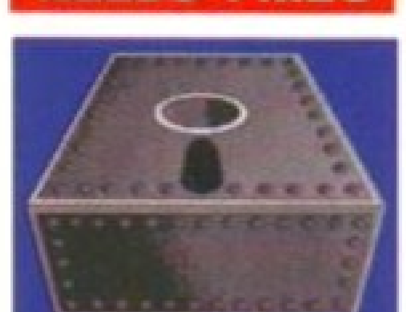
There are some nice intro screens, but the music is abysmal. It tries to give a Forties feel to the game, but just ends up making you want to rip out your sound lead. Fortunately, once you get into the game, this music is consigned to the great bomb crater in the sky, and is replaced by a variety of well sampled sounds.

The B17 had a crew of 10: pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier, radio operator, engineer and four gunners. You take the position of airplane commander, which means that you can step in and take over any of the positions. All of them can be computer-controlled, so you can just sit and watch if you want. However, your crew are not too experienced to begin with, so you'll need to keep an eye on them – a helping hand improves their skills. For instance, the navigator has the annoying habit of getting lost on the way home, but if you put him right, he learns from his mistakes.

You begin by choosing your bomber, its nose art and name. Then you can choose either a training flight (bomb the Isle of Sheppey) or a proper mission over occupied territory. Whichever you choose, you get the option of viewing a short film of a reconnaissance flight over both the primary and secondary targets. You've got to find the target yourself (none of this laser-guided nonsense), so it makes sense to pay attention to this and not attack the local nursery school by mistake.

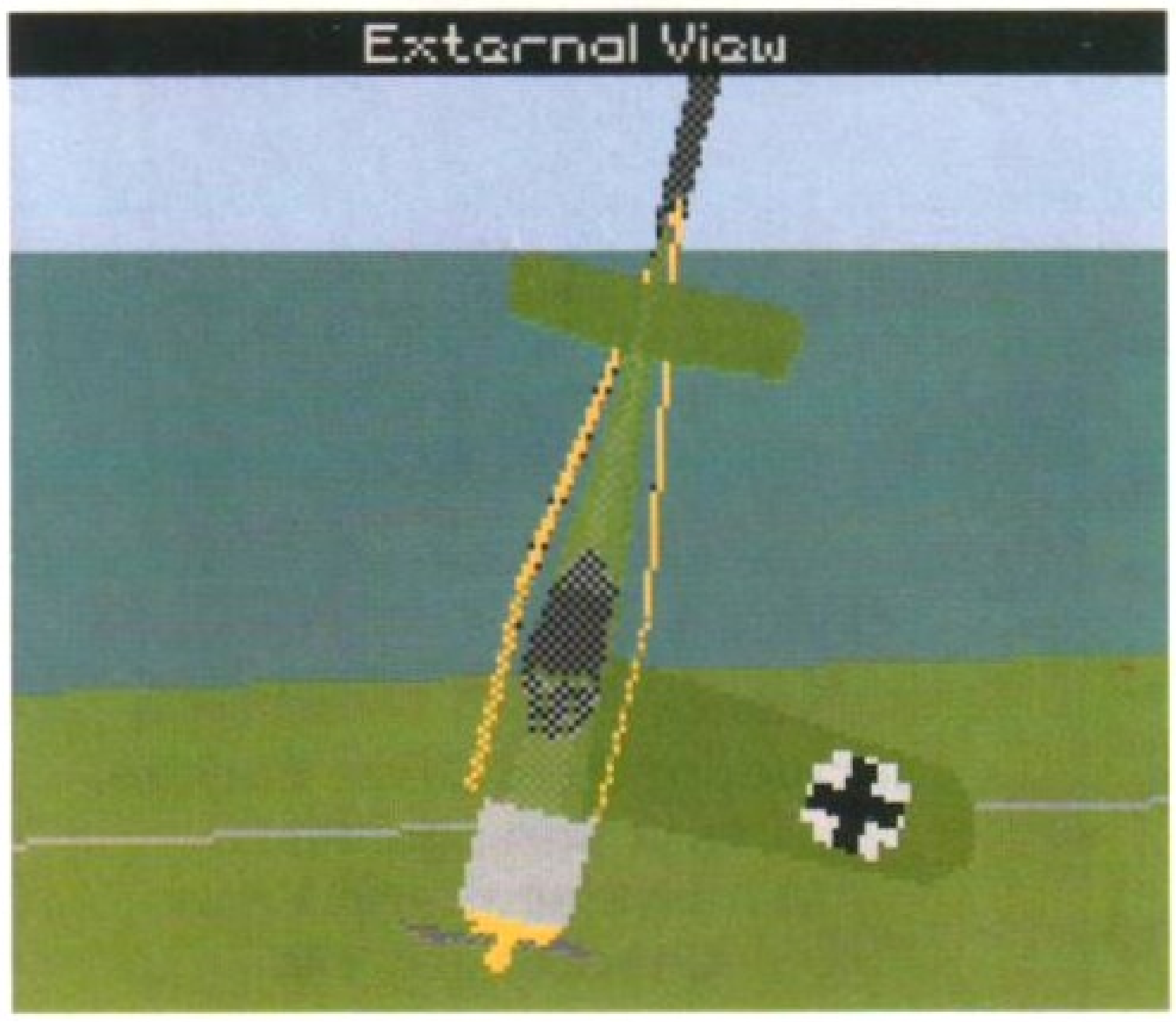
Once you're happy with it, you accept the mission, and you're deposited on the airfield. Taxi over to the runway behind the other mem-


NEEDS 1 MEG

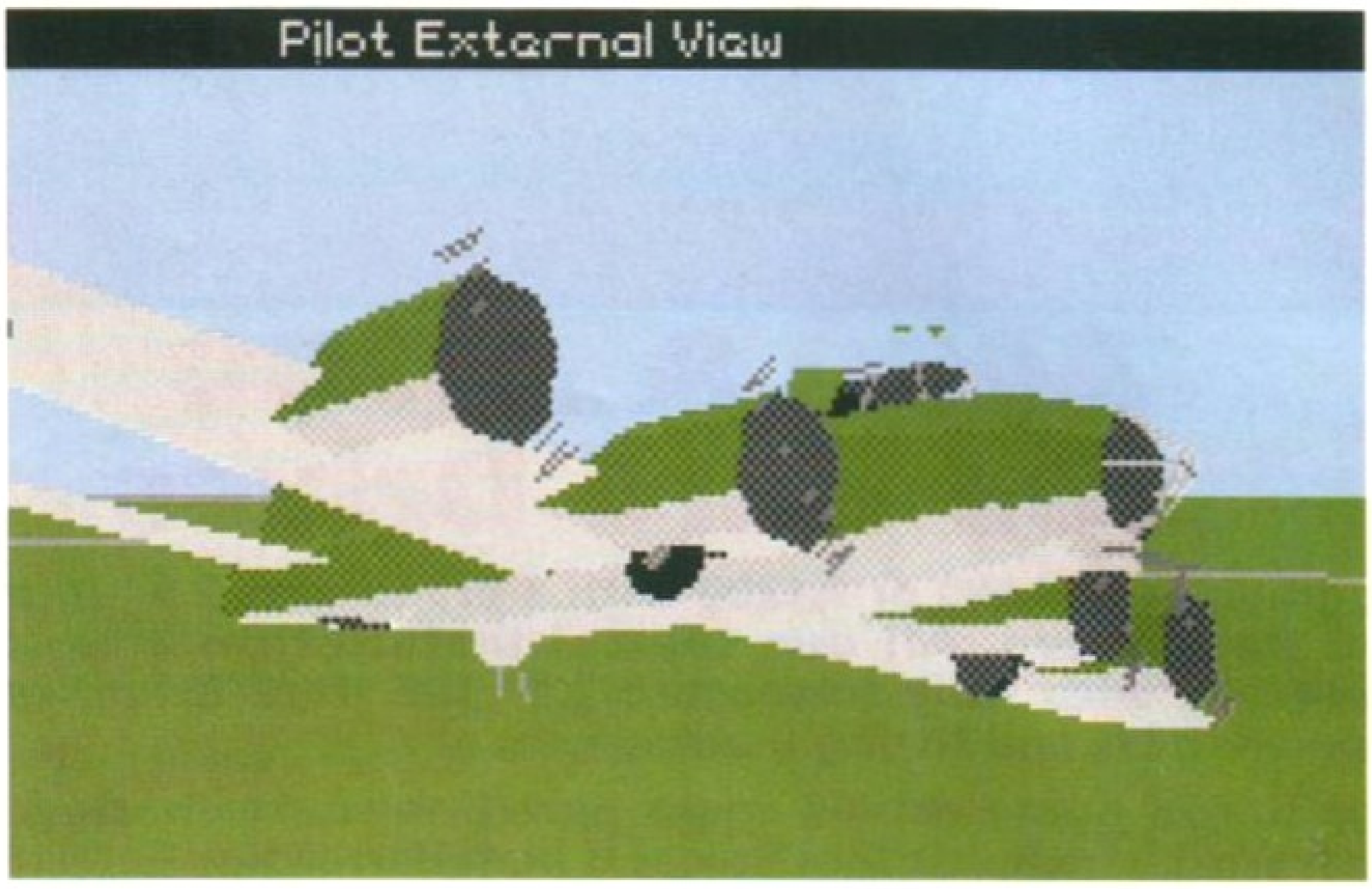

HARD DISK INSTALLABLE



The rather complex control panel of a B17 Flying Fortress. In this very lifelike flight sim, every one of these buttons and dials actually does something!



I do believe that this plane may have a problem flying, and he seems to have lost a wing somewhere. How careless.



If you wish, you can choose the Pilot External View – roughly speaking, what you'd be seeing if you were the pilot and had bailed out but wanted to watch your plane scream past into the sunset...



Hi, my name is Jeffrey, I'm your pilot and I'm flying at an altitude of 400 feet. The plane, however, is about three inches away from crashing...



Your crew learn from their mistakes when you set them straight, but unfortunately your commanding officer is not necessarily so helpful when the offending crew member is *you*...

bers of the squadron, and take off in order. You're in the pilot's seat to begin with, but if you're not sure about this, you can switch over to computer control by pressing 'M'. For the first couple of missions, it may be an idea to let the computer take control while you look around and familiarise yourself with the plane.

As you'd expect, there's a lot of waiting around while you're flying to your destination. You can jump through to the next point when something's happening by pressing Alt T, or accelerate time by pressing Alt A. But be careful that you are where you think you are – it's easy for a small error in navigation to send you several hundred miles off target. If you do get lost, you'll need to have a look around and see what local sights you can spot. The tactical view is also useful, because it tells you what the nearest significant town or airfield is.

Contact:
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Of course, there are many people who aren't too happy about you trying to bomb them. German fighters and flak pop up regularly, and you can either let the computer deal with the business of blasting them or step in and deal out the hot lead yourself. You can steer the gun or turret with either the joystick or keys, and analog joysticks are not supported.



So who's this brazen hussy, then? Absolutely shocking!

Freeze, sucker

It's well put together, with one or two exceptions. The samples used for the sound are OK, but there's little variation. The engine noise is the same whatever the revs, and it gets on the nerves after a bit. On an A500 with only 1Mb of memory, it's pretty jerky, and there's rather a lot of disk accessing. For some reason, the machine freezes while this is happening, which interrupts the flow of the gameplay. For instance, when you first encounter a German plane and start blasting, the screen freezes while the graphics for the bullet-bursts are loaded. However, on an A1200 with a hard disk it all runs smoothly. The plane's graphics are fairly simple, but what there is, is well designed, and it all moves very convincingly.

Flying Fortress is a game that will last and last, which is why it earns itself a coveted ***Amiga Format*** Gold award. Once you get into it, the challenge of getting your crew more experienced, without getting them killed will keep you coming back for more, time after time. Your crew can retire after 25 missions, but you'll probably want to start off a new one. If you're after a quick thrill, you won't find it here. But if you're looking for something that's accurate and atmospheric, this is *the* one to get.

Richard Baguley

B17 Flying Fortress
£39.99

- Very realistic flight sim.
- Much more technical than most flight sims.
- Music? Eyuk!
- Running from floppies with only 1Mb of memory is a pain.
- Round up all the other flight simulators, stick them in a field, and bomb 'em!

AMIGA FORMAT GOLD **91%**

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Chuck Rock 2 Son of Chuck

Core Design's sequel to their dinosaur-ridden platformer is here. Sequel or mammoth rehash? Well if you can bear the puns, read on…



Erm, I'm not sure how to put this to you, Junior, but I reckon you should look behind. you. This is a prime example of the type of monsters you can expect in *Son of Chuck* – Core proclaim them to be the biggest ever in a computer game!

It's been a while since Chuck Rock's original prehistoric frolic, when he rescued his gorgeous wife Ophelia Rock (snigger, fnarr) from the clutches of the evil, Neanderthal, glam pop star Gary Gritter. Chuck's obviously found better ways to spend his time than coming up with appalling stone-related puns, though, because Chuck and Ophelia now have an heir to the family fortune.

'Hang on a minute', you cry in a Les Dennis-y sort of way, 'What family fortune?' Oh yeah. Well, dubious though it may seem, the brick-brained hero of *Chuck Rock* is now a respectable and comfortably well-off businessman, in charge of the Fjord (Fjord? That's not a kind of rock) motor company.

Life would be all wine and stone roses if it wasn't for the one blot on Chuck, Ophelia and Chuck Jnr's horizon, in the rotund and flabby shape of the aforementioned Gary Gritter. Gary is the head honcho of the Datstone (that's better) motor company, Fjord's major rivals, and he's deeply jealous of Chuck's soaraway success.

Chuck him

Now you might think that the best way to combat such a situation would be to work harder, design better and more innovative cars, capture a larger market share, mount a hostile takeover and give Chuck the sack (like any businessman worth his salt'd do).

But Gary hasn't got the patience for that, so he kidnaps his adversary instead and demands that Ophelia signs over the deeds of the company. Ophelia, being a woman, collapses in a fit of tears (of course), but Junior isn't about to sit idly by while his inheritance is stolen away, so he smashes out of his playpen and sets off to mount a rescue.

Chuck 2 follows what it must be said is an extremely similar path to the original – lots of levels of mostly horizontally scrolling, platformy action with lots of cartoon-type baddies to clobber and some enormous, end-of-level, dinosaur-related bosses.

Actually, I'd like to pause here and talk more about the bosses, because they're the most impressive the Amiga's ever seen. The bosses in *Chuck 1* were very big and pretty (well, as pretty as prehistoric monsters get), but they were basically just large sprites with minimal animation which glided and twitched about in a not-particularly-special manner.

In *Chuck 2* they really seem alive – different bits of their bodies move at different times, and more or less the entire bodies are animated in some way, with particular attention paid to facial expressions. This facet of the baddies' personalities is put to good use in level three, which takes place entirely on the body of a giant dino ensconced in a lake. The 'boss' is in fact his head, and the mournful expression he wears as you attack makes you feel such a heel for clubbing him to death with your (er...) club that it's a real struggle with your conscience to continue.



Heart of stone

Still, continue you must ('The family's depending on you, young 'un!'), and you'll have to harden your heart, because things don't get any less cute as you go along.

As with *Chuck 1*, there's laughs aplenty – my faves are the evil dinosaur which, after receiving a few good swings of your club, breaks apart to reveal that it's actually a little caveman in a dinosaur suit, and the William Shatner-style wig-wearing thug whose rug takes on a life of its own and attacks you independently when a hearty thwack separates it from its owner.

But, for all the impressive giant sprites and funny enemies, it's not all sweetness and light for *Chuck 2*. While there have been a few

CHUCK ROCK 2 is available from Core Design 0332 297797



Chuck Junior prepares to do battle with a cuddly teddy bear – aaahhhh...

A member of Brian Blessed's gang from *Flash Gordon* makes a shock appearance here...

While here our tiny hero attempts to cross swords with an organic totem pole. Hmmm.



If you find the going a little difficult in the game, there's usually the odd tortoise (usually doing a Marty Feldman impression) to catch a ride on. Lucky that.

refinements and enhancements made to the original gameplay, this is still just an update rather than a real sequel (taking 'real sequel' to mean something which expands and builds on its predecessor, rather than rehashing it).

Players of the first game might well feel they'd be just as well getting out the original and playing it with a sheet of psychedelic-coloured cellophane over the screen to give the graphics a new look.

And while gameplay-wise the game *is* practically identical, and a bit faster to boot, it's also a deal more frustrating – there are some annoyingly tricky jumps, made tricky mostly by the imprecise collision detection as regards whether Junior is actually standing on a platform or not.

Lumbering dinos

The baddies, apart from the aforementioned bosses, are lacking in movement. They look groovy, but when it comes to attacking you, it's nearly always a straight walking-backwards-and-forwards-and-only-hitting-you-if-you-happen-to-get-in-their-way affair.

This makes much of the game a dull session of platform-climbing and relentlessly battering the fire-button to take care of anything which might cross your path.

There are other hazards to contend with, (falling rocks, giant snowballs), but since they mostly move too fast for Chuck Jnr's reactions to cope with, it's a case of learning when they come and keeping out of their way, rather than any kind of battle of wits.



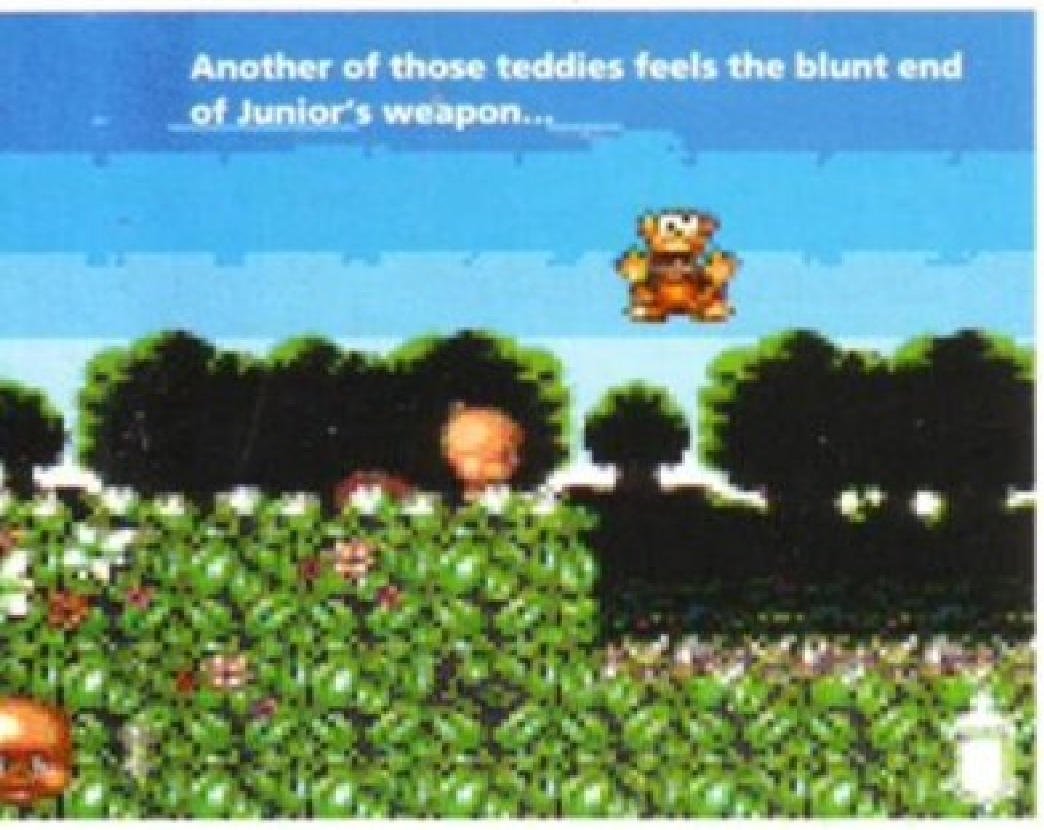
Junior summons all his might and power to bop the slimy octopus on the head with the club.

Most of this is criticism that could be levelled at about 85 per cent of games, so let's not be too hard on *Chuck 2*. The main market for this game is going to be those who bought the first one. And if you liked that, this is, in almost every way, a tangible improvement.

Chuck 2 is simple, undemanding fun that brings a smile to your face a sight more often than the average game, and any game that makes you happy is a game worth having a look at, at least.

Game-wise *Chuck Rock 2* is almost entirely unremarkable, but as an entertainment experience it's not too bad at all.

Amanda Dyson



Another of those teddies feels the blunt end of Junior's weapon...

Chuck Rock 2
£25.99

- Lovely graphics, if a bit pixelly.
- Chuck Jnr's tantrum when he loses a life is really cute.
- Gameplay begins to get very repetitive by about halfway through.
- Won't take you all that long to finish.

Verdict **81%**

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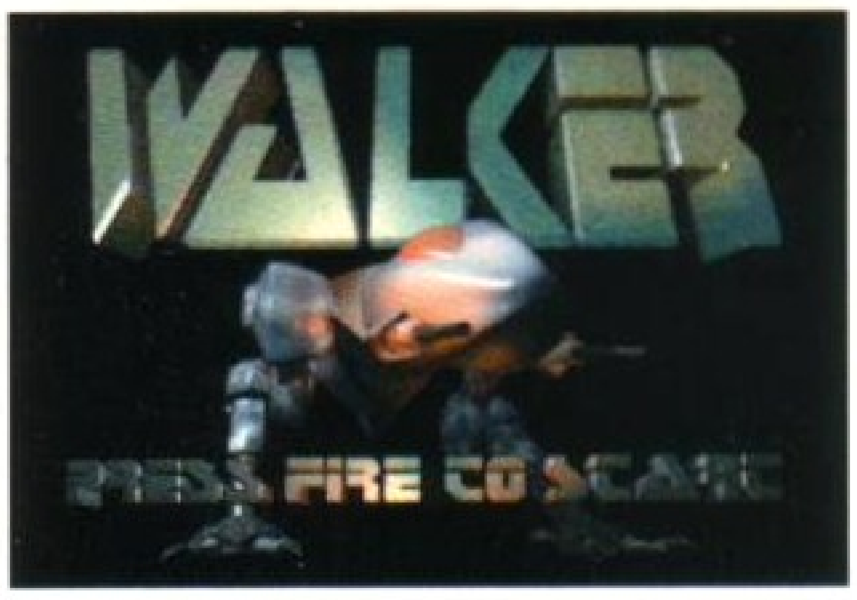
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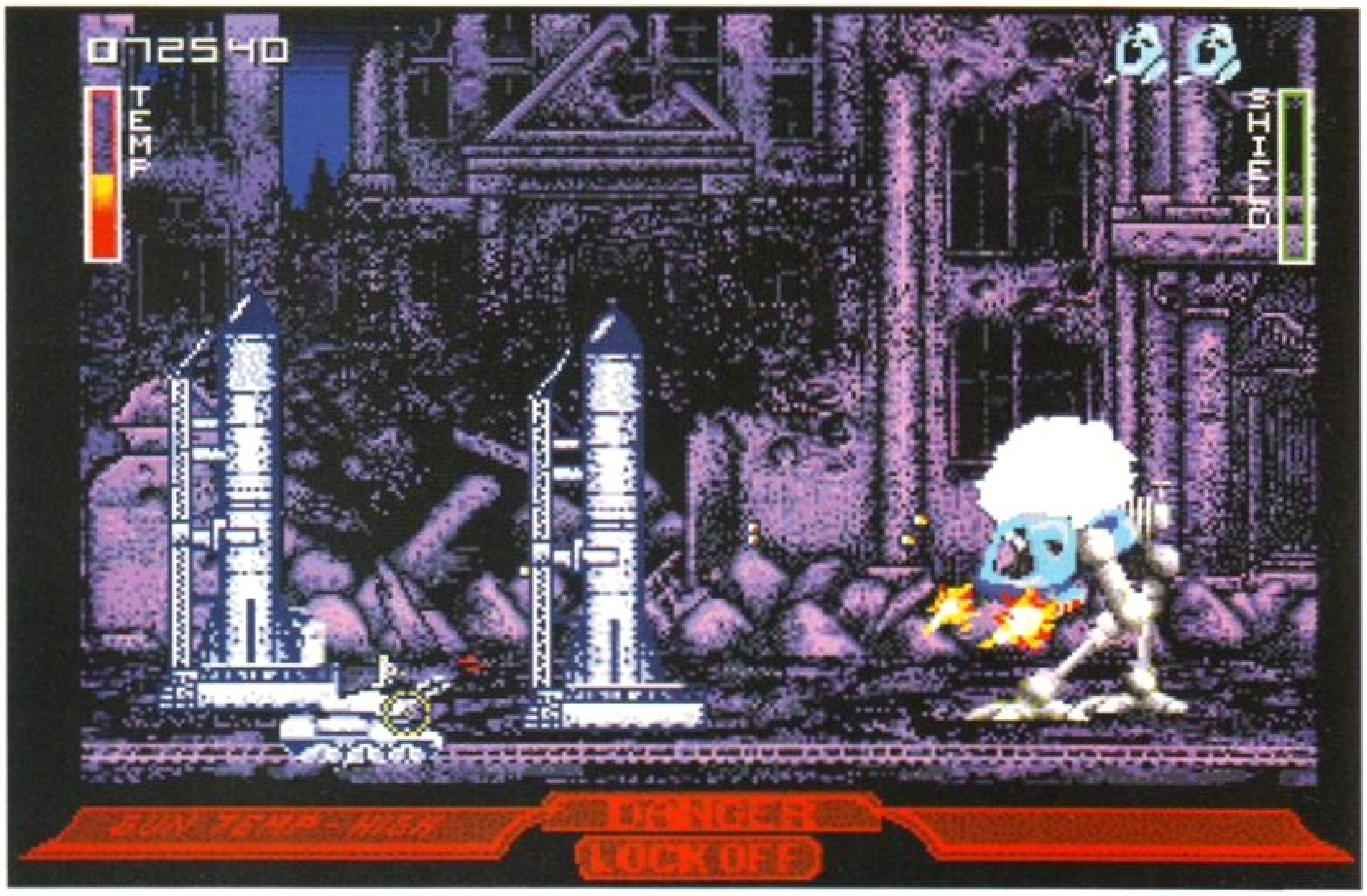
COMMODORE ATARI CITIZEN STAR AMSTRAD CUMANA PHILIPS GOLDEN IMAGE NAKSHA ABACUS SEGA DIGITA



The most gruesome, gory, gun-totin', gob-smackin' game on the planet? *Walker* in all his three-dimensional glory.



"Die, scumbags!" The wastelands of Los Angeles in 2019, where mutoid beings wander about waiting to be pumped full of lead...



On Difficult level, the end-of-level guardians get much tougher. At the end of level one, above, two rockets must be destroyed, while on Easy there's only one. Trouble is, you can only complete the game when running on Difficult....

Walker

After Lemmings 2 comes Walker, the second game by DMA Design/Psygnosis to be featured in this issue. This is becoming a bit of a monopoly! Can they score two hits in a row?

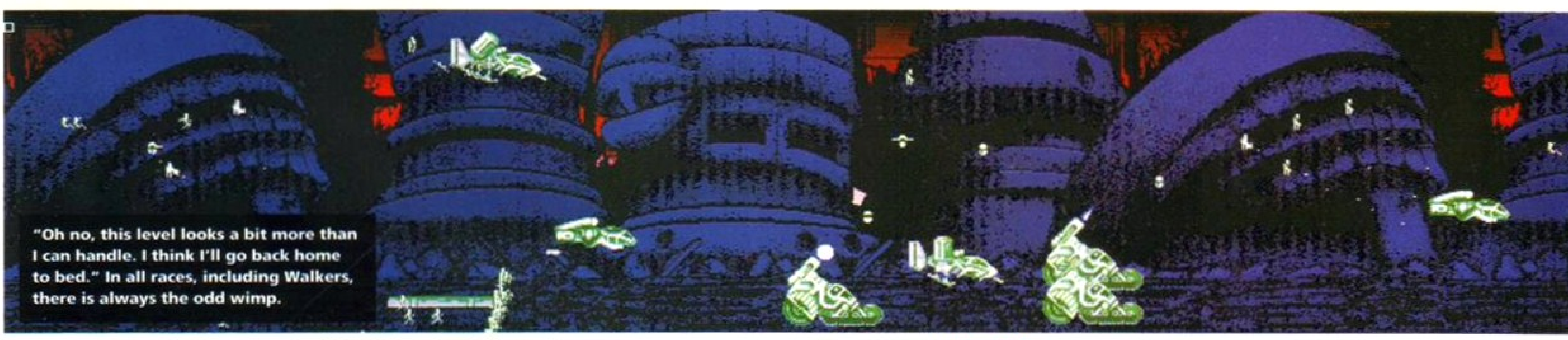
"Walker Control, this is Unit One."

"Unit One. Proceed to the mission start-point. Once there you must destroy all targets. Is that clear?"

"Read affirmative, sir. They're history."

Famous last words...

Walker has no power-ups, no bonus levels, no coins to collect, and there's a distinctly un-cute main character (unless you happen to be into large, shiny, mechanical chickens). Also, because there are no power-ups, you have to stick with the same weapons throughout the game; and to cap it all, the Walker walks from right-to-left, and the screen scrolls with it.



"Oh no, this level looks a bit more than I can handle. I think I'll go back home to bed." In all races, including Walkers, there is always the odd wimp.

So, what has it got going for it? Well, remember *Zzoom* by Imagine for the Sinclair Spectrum? No? Well, in that game you had to control a gun by moving the sight around the screen searching for enemy soldiers. When you found one, you let loose some ammo, and the geezer died with a splash of BLOOD. Yes, *Walker* is similar in style to *Zzoom*, mainly because you use a big gun to shoot tiny men, and they disappear leaving behind a pool of that red stuff.

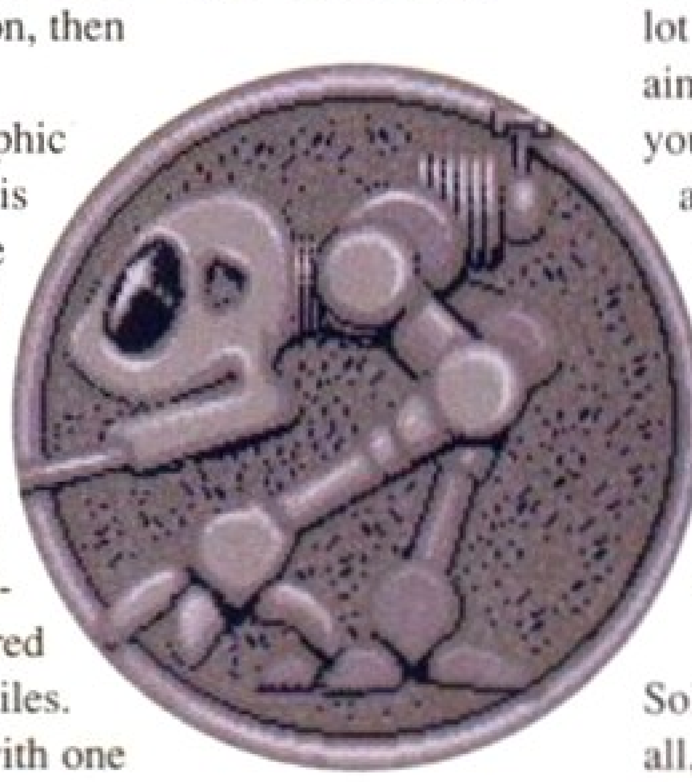
Violence is golden

If you don't like the sight of blood, or if you feel that violence in games will disturb you or your children, then you are not likely to find much to appreciate in *Walker*. On the other hand, if you like a good shoot-em-up, that will improve your hand-eye co-ordination and serve as a release for any built-up tension, then look no further.

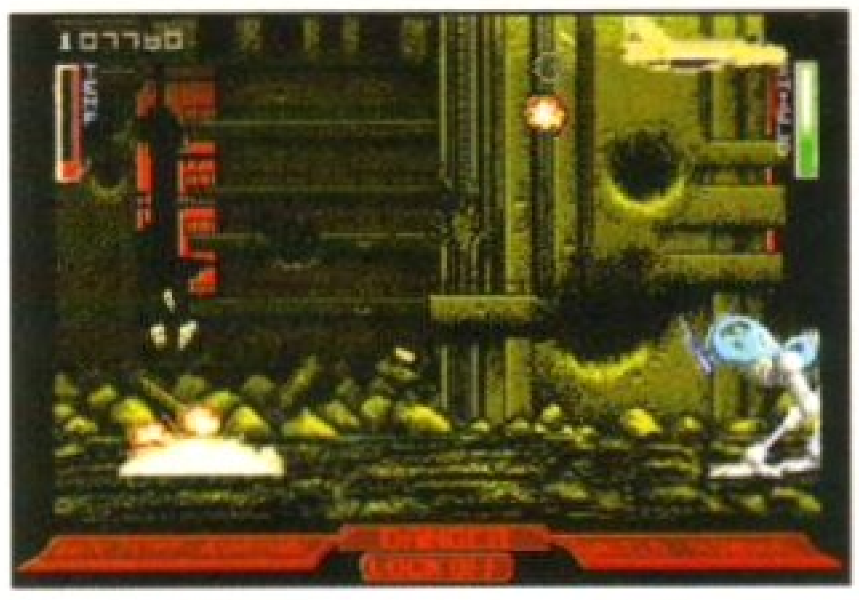
Eight levels with four different graphic styles await you and your Walker, each is set in a different time zone. These range from pre-World War II to way into the future, so the game throws a variety of enemies in your direction. In level one (WWII), expect everything from hang-gliders to tanks; while in level two (21st century LA) you will find heli-copters, laser-firing tanks, and battered dune buggies that fire heat-seeking missiles.

Most of them can be finished off with one or two rounds of fire, but some (such as the heavily armoured tanks which make up the equivalent of the end-of-level guardian) take a lot more shots which must be strategically aimed. You have as many rounds to spare as you want, but your fire is limited by a temper-ature bar which regulates the heat of your gun. If it overheats, your gun stops firing. There are two skill levels, easy and arcade. Easy mode not only throws less enemies at you, but it also won't allow you to progress beyond level four – so you can't reach the end of the game without playing it on difficult mode. Excellent!

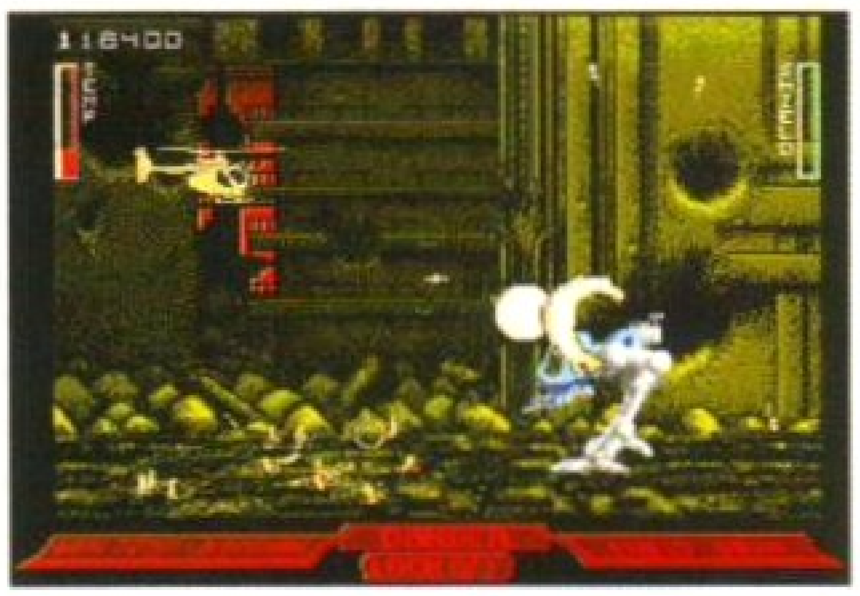
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Now we come to the only slight problem. Solid gameplay and technical brilliance are not all, we need some variety as well – and there just isn't enough variety to keep you hooked



Level three, The Middle East. Lots of men running about in desert uniforms. Fortunately, they can still be seen off with a single round...



...and yes, here we have one we prepared earlier. Notice the contrast between yellow and red as the massacre takes place. Pretty, huh?



"There's too many of them." The soldier inside the Walker reports back to base with a message containing more than a little distress...



This is a very strange end-of-level baddie. After you scrap one of these tanks, the crane comes down, picks it up, and drops it on your head!

for more than a couple of hours at a time. Having said that, this is definitely a game which you will want to load up again from time to time, just to see if you can get a little bit further – but for 30 quid that's not much of a consolation.

Walks tall

Anyway, on the cosmetic side, *Walker* is superb. The fluid animation of the main Walker character is matched by the six or seven-level parallax scrolling backgrounds, which are done with such subtlety that it takes a while before you even notice them!

The sound effects are even better, with a lot of attention (and memory) given to getting the sounds right. For example, if you shoot a tank, then it explodes with a sub-sonic booming sample, and then if you keep shooting the wreckage, bits of shrapnel fall to the ground with a satisfying 'clank'. There are more to describe, if only we had the space.

OK, to keep it short, *Walker* is the most adrenaline-pumping, hype-inducing, testosterone-filled blast you're likely to see on the Amiga. Check that, on anything. Take a look, or forever hold your peace...

Andy Nuttall



Got an A1200?

If you're one of the growing band of Amiga 1200 owners, you will be pleased to know that *Walker* will actually detect that you have such a machine, and enhance itself accordingly.

Admittedly, this only means the addition of lots of sampled speech, but we reckon it's the first game to actually include enhancements as standard – and the speech does make one hell of a difference. Well done DMA Design, we hope that others follow this lead.

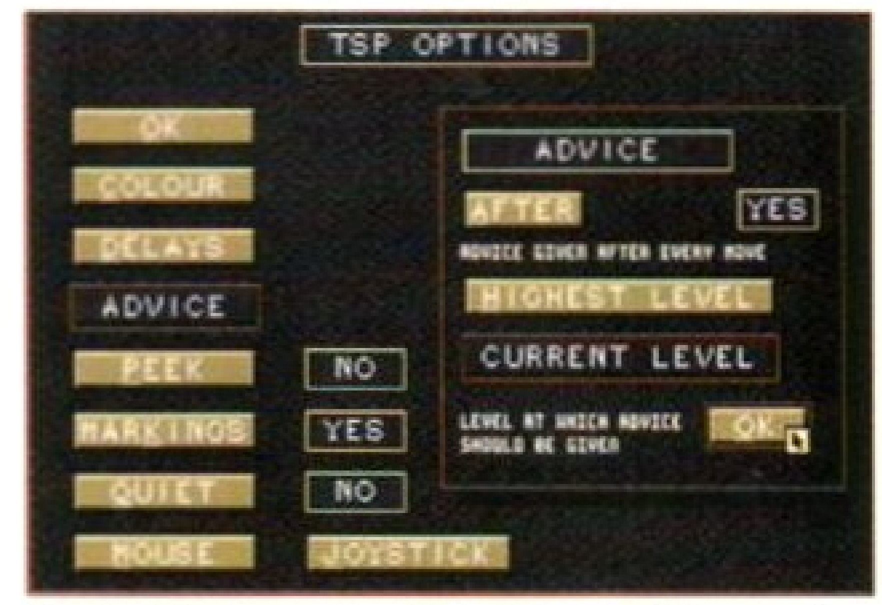
Walker
Psygnosis ■ £29.99

- **Strange concept, superbly executed (in more ways than one).**
- **Lots of disk loading, better if you have two floppy drives.**
- **Cosmetically and technically excellent.**
- **Wonderful shoot-em-up, which is let down somewhat by repetitive gameplay.**

Amiga Format Verdict 81%



The main Scrabble game screen, with the computer player (TSP) at the top of the screen, and little me at the bottom. Actually, talking of bottoms, did the computer *really* put BUM for 13 points? It's downright disgusting if you ask me.



The Options screen, while not a rivetting read, makes a change from views of the board.

Scrabble

Many moons ago, on the 8-bit micros such as the C64 and Spectrum, a company called Leisure Genius brought out a computerised version of that old board-game classic, Scrabble. At the time it was considered to be brilliant, with a reasonably intelligent computer opponent and great presentation, including a feature known as 'dancing letters' – remember them? (it was a fancy way of jumbling up the tiles in your rack if you don't).

One massive problem with the game, though, was that the memory of the early 8-bit computers was very limited, and so only a small dictionary was possible. To get around this, when the program was confronted with a word which it didn't recognise, it asked you if it was a word or not. Easy, eh? Not really, because you could always enter something like 'HGQIKAJL' on two triple-word squares, and score something like 2,000 points. When *Scrabble* then queried the word, you simply pressed Y and the poor computer was powerless to resist.

Power player

Now, though, the big guns of the Amiga are blazing, and US Gold have considered that it's about time computer *Scrabble* was resurrected and brought up-to-date. The game is very similar in style to its 8-bit ancestors, but it has one major thing that makes it stand head-and-shoulders above them: a full OSW dictionary.

For those of you who don't play Scrabble, OSW is an acronym for Official Scrabble Words, which is a special book containing every word containing less than 10 letters that may be used in the game. This means that stored somewhere on the single Scrabble disk (yep, one disk) is a mammoth 134,000 word dictionary – certainly no mean feat.

So, you may be thinking, the Amiga must take ages to search through that dictionary for words, yes? Well, no, it doesn't – it's blindingly quick. This can be a little unnerving, because you can sit for ages racking your brains for a word, and the computer will immediately inform you that it's incorrect, and then quickly put another word down and begin waiting for your next go.

Each player has a time limit of 25 minutes for each game, which can't be changed, and which isn't very long for the average human. Fortunately, an option is included which enables you to adjust the average response time of the computer player– effectively a handicap system.

HARD DISK INSTALLABLE

NEEDS 1 MEG

Contact: US GOLD
021-625 336



Retaking? RETAKING? Damn this Amiga. There I was, only needing a 'Y' to be able to put SOCIETY in for eight million points. Actually, that's a lie.

Depending on your lexical ability, whether you're a crossword master or you spell seize 'sieze', there is a difficulty level to suit you. There are 12 different settings available, from a player with a basic vocabulary of around 2,400 words, to a Scrabble master who can pluck a word at will from anywhere in the huge dictionary – which includes many two-lettered words such as 'AE', 'AA', 'AB' and 'ZO' (essential if you're going to rack up plenty of points).

By now you may have noticed that I haven't mentioned the rules of Scrabble. That's because just about everybody in the world knows how to play Scrabble (if you don't, then go and ask your mum or your grandad or somebody, because they're bound to know). Suffice to say that it involves several players taking turns to throw letters on to a board to form a crossword, and scoring points related to the complexity of the words formed.

Vile jumpers

OK, OK, I realise that Scrabble isn't exactly the sexiest game on earth, and that's probably partly because the president of the British Scrabble Association is in fact Gyles Brandreth. See what I mean? You shouldn't let this put you off though, because if you like using words, especially in crossword-type puzzles, there really is no better game than this. And if you need to pep up your English vocabulary, it'll help you along nicely in that direction too.

With tons of options, including a practice mode with a good help facility, and several save-game slots so you can continue a game at a later date, it makes an excellent opponent and referee for any Scrabble player, beginner or otherwise.

Andy Nuttall

Scrabble
US Gold ■ £27.99

- Easy-to-use, with no annoying delays – if anything, it can be too quick.
- 12 difficulty settings, from novice to Scrabble master.
- Plenty of options so you can configure the game to your heart's content.
- Enormous 134,000 word dictionary.
- Great conversion of the classic board-game.

Amiga Format Verdict **84%**

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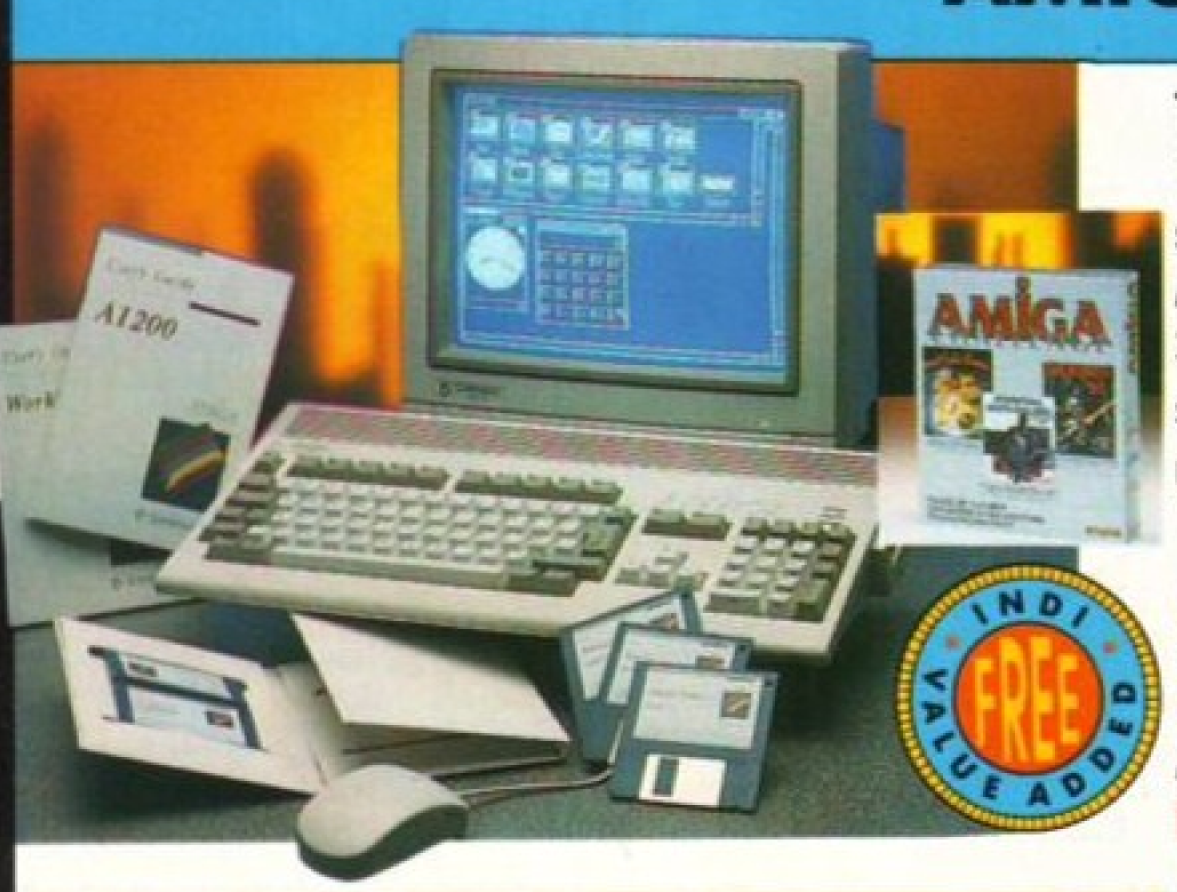
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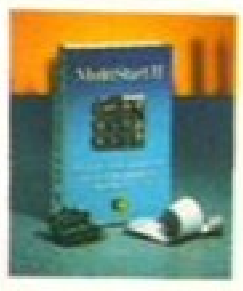




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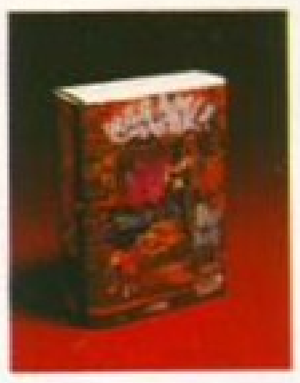
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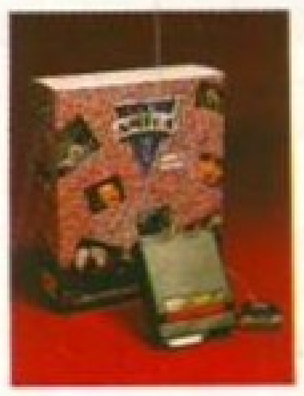
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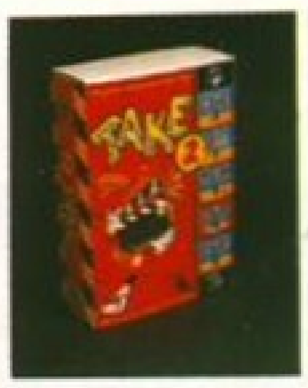
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Knightmare

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Fans of either the *Eye Of The Beholder* series or *Captive* will instantly be at home with *Knightmare*. Though where home is, is a bit of a mystery.

Roughly based on the TV show of the same name, you must guide a band of humanoids through a series of tough challenges, all related to one fantasy theme, in order to, well, win, really. The game is done in a sort of 3D, with the mouse clicking your movement and fighting for you when monsters appear.

It's huge, it looks marvellous and it's extremely difficult, although there's a sort of wizardy fellow to help you out a fair bit.

Verdict 85%

Legend

Mindscape ■ £14.99

Reviewed *AF*36 – 88%



There's got to be something good about a game in which you can go down the pub. Sucking the Amiga's expansion port gives you a slight taste of beer, too.

Similar to *Moonstone*, *Legend* is the better of the two. It's got plenty of atmosphere and a big chunk of tedium-free plot to get you in the mood.

The freedom of *Legend*, and, indeed all such games is limited because each location is set, and should be visited in the correct order if you're going to be finishing it properly. Trying new ideas out doesn't yield good results in the way you'll find in an *Eye of the Beholder*-style game. But this is a minor point, and in fact *Legend* is an enjoyable romp through the misty lands of people who light too many joss-sticks and should get out more often instead.

Verdict 88%

Moonstone

Mindscape ■ £14.99

Reviewed *AF*32 – 59%



Hooray! Down the pub again. It's turning into a regular crawl, is this month's Cheap and Cheerful. And there's even some rather nice dice-playing as well.

Billed as 'so much fun you'll die', *Moonstone* has got a bit of on-box hype to live up to. If the truth be told, I didn't die during or after playing it.

It's the older, storybook-style of gaming, with gorgeous still graphics and maps showing little guys wandering through the Iron Hills and so on. *Knightmare* definitely has the exciting realism edge of games like this.

But as a fantasy escape, this is certainly worth a look. It's not really as deep or some would say as boring as many, but it looks very teenage bedroom wall, which must be a good thing. Not bad at all, *Moonstone*, it has to be said. It's just lacking slightly in atmosphere.

Verdict 72%

Storm Master

Daze ■ £12.99

Reviewed *AF*33 – 90%



Not so much a pub, this. More of a wine-bar, possibly like those you find in central London. There does seem to be a waitering service provided, though.

Twin dynasties have been fighting through the centuries on the planet of Urgaa. The reason for this never-ending battle has been forgotten.

Anyway, you're the only person capable of resolving this violence. You must do this by talking to blokes who appear on the main menu and give you info on the enemy's forces, economy and general position.

You can monitor and tweak any aspects of your own land, economy and all military matters. There's also a 3D combat section for when you decide to kick some ass.

Storm Master is fun. You just have to be the right sort of person to fully enjoy it.

Verdict 89%

The Greatest

Beau Jolly ■ £32.99

A compilation with just three games seems stingy. But wait 'til you see what games these are, then throw such accusations...

Dune

Reviewed AF36 – 79%



Nothing to do with pubs, this guy looks like the sort who only drinks Real Ales.

Epic book, epic film, er, quite big game. *Dune* is an adventure where you must travel around the world of Arrakis, or Dune if you prefer, sorting stuff out, getting a grip on the Spice trade and controlling people's minds in order to get rid of the nasty Harkonnen and that. It's a 190 minute film, so don't expect to explain the film here!

Anyway, the game is visually marvellous, pretty playable and good entertainment, especially if you've got a few days to spare.

Lure of the Temptress

Reviewed AF36 – 92%



A dungeon with a fire going on in it. Not a pub at all. It might be a club or something, though.

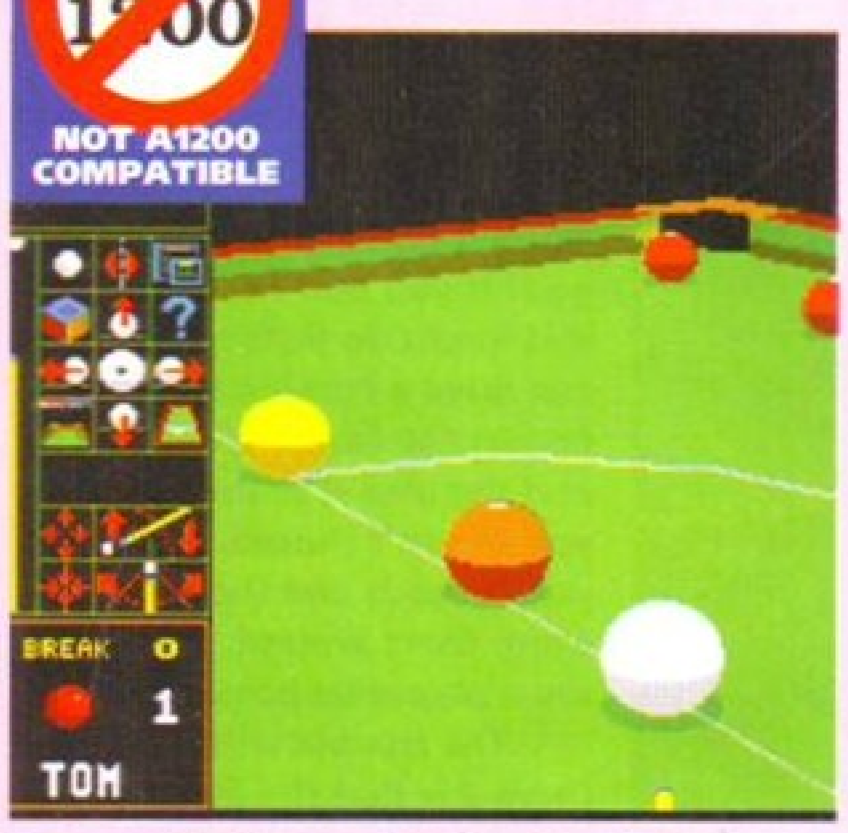
A point-and-click job, this. You have got to get out of your cell, get to grips with the virtual cinema thing they've invented for this, and get stuck into an adventure that slowly unravels as you play. There doesn't seem to be a clear point to it all when you start, but once you make some headway, it becomes apparent.

The graphics are old-fashioned, but pretty darned workable all the same. They do the job they're supposed to, and they give you atmosphere while letting you get on with the investigating, talking and collecting of things. There's lots of these in this game. And it's engrossing, that's for sure.

Jimmy White's Snooker

Reviewed AF26 91%

AMIGA 1200 — NOT A1200 COMPATIBLE



Hey, people play snooker in pubs, don't they? Well, Pool actually. But this is snooker, here.

Not much of an adventure, this. More of a snooker game, in fact. You can play another human or three skill levels of computer opponent, and the idea is to beat them. It's all done in astonishing 3D, with amazingly accurate algorithms and stuff – all included at no extra cost.

There's a trick-shot option, and if you're a fan of snooker, this game won't seem like a poor quality effort trying to cash in on the sport's popularity. Archer Maclean wrote it, and he wrote it beautifully. A marvellous game and no mistake.

AMIGA GOLD FORMAT **91%**

Crystals of Arborea

Daze ■ £9.99

Not previously reviewed



Look at the size of that beer-garden. Our intrepid heroes, having finished their orange juices and lemonades, decide which direction to have a quest in.

This game boasts over 16,000 locations to visit. Fine, but some are more interesting than others, it has to be said. The plot is truly bot-puckering. Morgoth, the Lord of Chaos has blighted your once-beautiful land with all sorts of unpleasantnesses. People go about their daily lives under a cloud of doom, which casts a shadow of despondency over the stricken, despair-ridden lands of total and utter futility.

And once more, you're just the man or woman to mend this situation. You must travel around the map of death, visiting all these dreadful locations in order to find the key to making everyone happy again. Simple. Not really. Fairly long-winded, not brilliant and in fact rather a poor attempt. Still, it's cheap.

Verdict 52%

Metal Mutant

Daze ■ £9.99

Not previously reviewed



Obviously Daze were going through something of a green period when they wrote this. Either that or their colour palette got stuck in some way.

Oh dear. Someone's seen Transformers on telly and nicked the idea. In this horizontal-scrolling shoot-em-up you play a robot thing which has got the power to change from a vaguely humanoid shape into a tank, a sort of cat and a large penguin or something.

Each of these mutations will come in useful at some point in the game, and you must be aware of the relative powers that each incarnation has.

But in order to use all the robot's forms properly, you must get pretty far into the game. And that's fairly unlikely because it's not really very good.

Verdict 44%

Trivial Pursuit

Hit Squad ■ £7.99

Not previously reviewed



Remember that bit from Filthy Rich and Catflap? Well insert it here and have a laugh.

So what exactly are you expecting? It's a load of questions on different topics, isn't it? But at only eight sovs, it's a sight cheaper than buying the real thing.

This version has also got charming little graphical interludes which aren't of course, included with the board-game.

The questions are pretty much as you'd expect from the board version, although there's a lot less of them and Lord knows whether they're exactly the same. And, er, that's about it for this. A lot of fun if you've got a load of people round to have a go. And you can't cheat as easily, either.

Verdict 62%

Terminator 2

Hit Squad ■ £7.99

Reviewed *AF*29 – 60%



Did you spill my mercury? (Well that's what the T1000 is made of, isn't he?)

There's fighting, there's driving along in various vehicles and there's more fighting.

Terminator 2 is a standard multi-level licence. Competently done, but not breath-taking, it's a much more sensible game at this price, though especially now all the fuss about the movie has died down.

The game tries to recreate various scenes throughout the film, like the one in the hospital corridor where the two Terminals first meet. There's a beat-em-up and shoot-em-up game, a couple of puzzlers and a driving game. Not as good as the *Batman* licence though.

Verdict 69%

Test Drive 2 – The Duel

Hit Squad ■ £7.99

Reviewed *AF*27 – 58%



This is a Porsche 959. It's the nearest you'll ever come to driving one, so look closely.

Fancy a bit of 3D driving, do you? If you don't own a car, this might do instead. You can drive a Porsche 959 or a Ferrari F40 (some choice, eh?) and the idea is to race the car you haven't chosen. You're on public roads and there are other users around. Accidents are a perennial possibility.

The trouble with *Test Drive 2* is that the sense of speed isn't quite enough to excite you. It's smooth, slick and nicely done otherwise, but there's something lacking which you feel could have been worked on. Look at *Formula 1 Grand Prix*, for example.

Verdict 62%

Quattro Power Machines

CodeMasters ■ £7.99

Not previously reviewed

Four games, each packed with horsepower, apparently. Let's see which can burn off the rep-laden Sierras at the lights...

Violator



If you're in the market for a vertical scroller, well, er, good luck and best wishes.

More of a *SWIV*-style blaster than a car game this. It's pretty diverting is *Violator*. Once you start to play, you'll find it hard to stop. The graphics aren't magic, but the difficulty is set just about right.

Rather an enjoyable game. It has a slight PD feel, but if you can live with that, you've got a game to enjoy at least until *EastEnders* is on.

Grand Prix



Why don't they build real racing circuits like this? It'd be mildly entertaining, probably.

Aha. A *Badlands*/*SuperSprint*-style game. There's a circuit on each screen, and some microscopic cars to race round them in. Nigel Mansell would never have retired from F1, had he had these sort of circuits to drive.

Not particularly edifying, but not rubbish. Not worth a great deal more ink than this, though.

Pro Powerboat



Powerboat? Pro-Zipping-Down-Thin-Passages would be a better title, in a sense.

Pretty essential to the powerboating fraternity, this is a bit of a laugh. It's a scrolly sort of steer-around game, and it's not going to set the world on fire, primarily because it's set on water, which, as every chemistry student knows, doesn't burn. Despite being made up of hydrogen and oxygen, apparently.

Nitro Boost Challenge

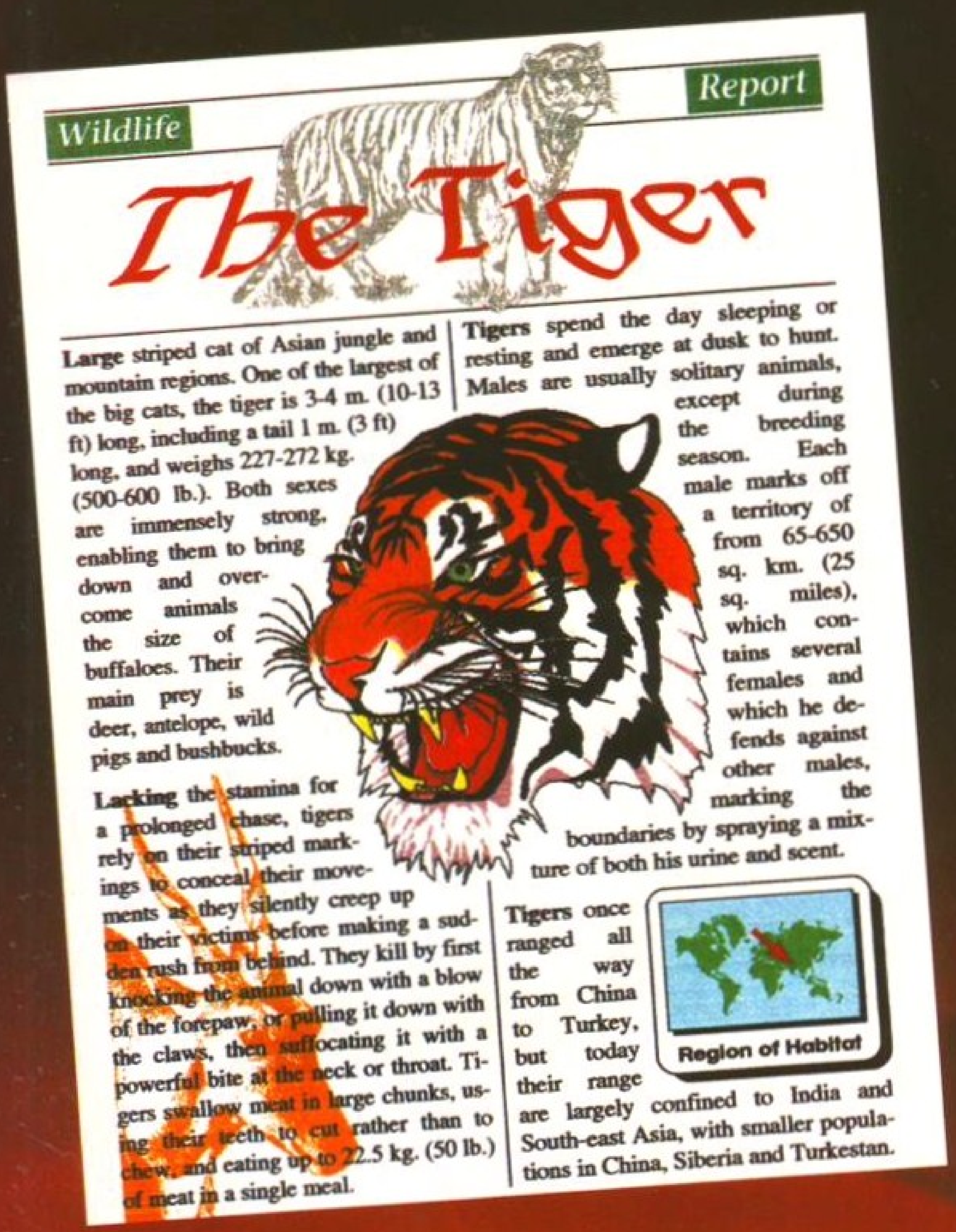


It's a tough life, being a stuntman. They get paid a lot, though, so don't be too sympathetic, eh?

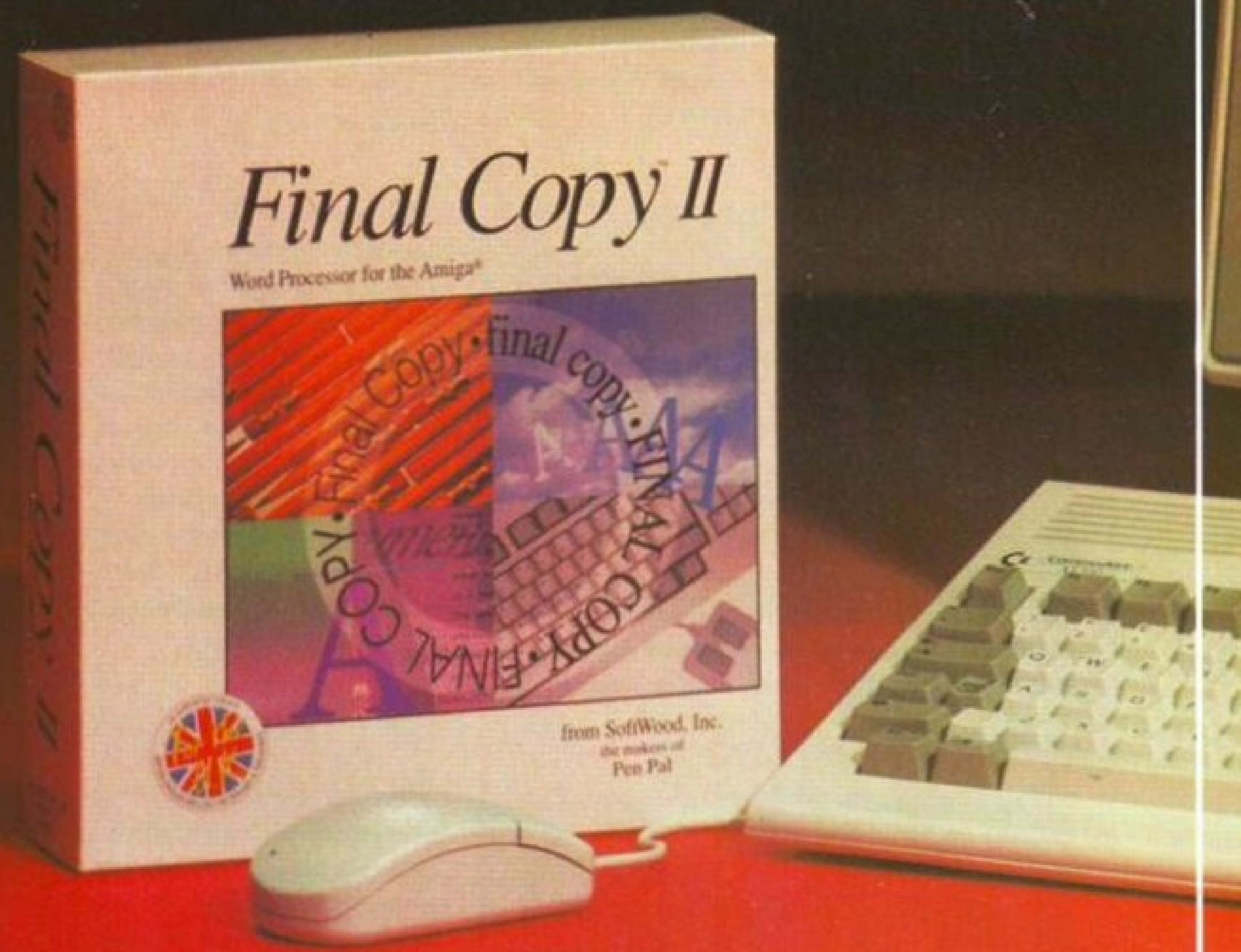
This is basically more of the same. You didn't really expect anything else did you? It's a bright, colourful scroller in which you nitro your way through the levels, posing as a stuntman. Or boost your way through them, it's up to you. Either way, it's simple and it must be pitched at those blessed with a terminally high boredom thresholds.

Verdict 68%

The Best Word Publish
(Amiga Forma



We'd simply call it the best Amiga Word Processor. But if after using it, the experts insist on calling Final Copy II the best Word Publisher as well, we're not complaining!

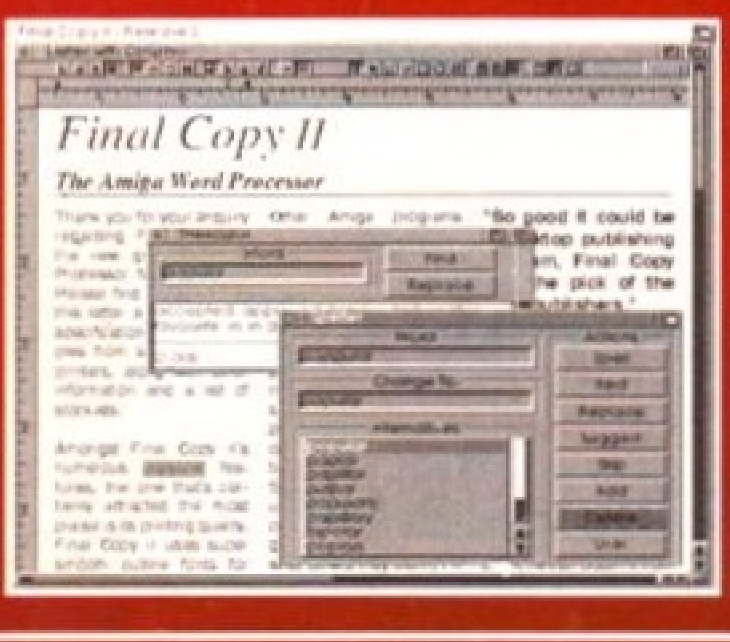


Final Copy coined the phrase "Perfect Printing on **any** Printer".
We mean it - this document proves it!

Created in Final Copy II and printed on a standard 24-pin Citizen Swift, it shows a small number of Final Copy II's features: Smooth Scaleable Outline Fonts, Multiple Columns, Drawing Tools for Boxes, Borders, Shadows, Lines and Arrows, White-Out Text, Text Printed over Graphic Images, Text Obliquing, Auto-Flow Text around Graphics and of course, Import of Colour and Mono Graphics Pictures.

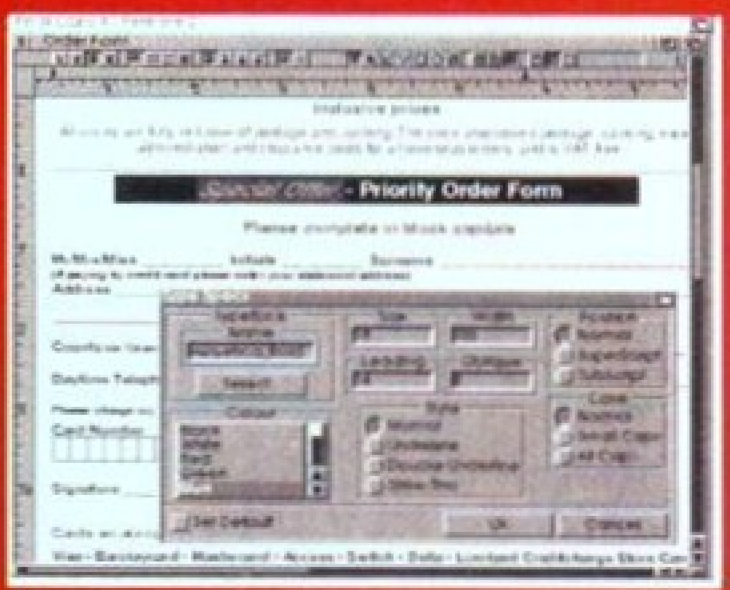
Final

Word Publishers go beyond simply producing normal letters and documents (at which Final Copy II naturally excels) and progress into a world where *how the whole document looks* is just as important as *what it says*. Admittedly, this can be achieved with Desk Top Publishers, but they can't easily be used as Word Processors, especially when a good looking letter needs creating quickly - they're far too cumbersome. This is where Final Copy II offers the perfect balance between the two requirements. Ease and speed of use, combined with complete control and perfect final printed presentation.



Document creation is so simple with 28 On-Screen Buttons for routine formatting and navigating commands, like Auto-Hyphenation. With *true* WYSIWYG display, you can even edit whilst your pages are magnified up to 400% (or reduced). Long documents are supported with Title/Master Pages, Style Sheets, Left/Right Page Binding Offset and Auto Numbering. Because your text needs to be perfect, the British-English Collins Proximity Speller combined with the Thesaurus (for that added inspiration) help you to produce the precise, printed page.

Compugraphic, Adobe Type 1 PostScript or Nimbus Q PostScript? If you *want* lots of fonts, you can *have* lots of fonts! Final Copy II can use thousands of superior Adobe Type 1 or Nimbus Q fonts (the same as those used on professional publishing systems). Both these types are PostScript fonts, but unlike all other Word Processors you don't need an expensive PostScript laser to use them! Final Copy II *will* print them on PostScript lasers, *or* any graphics capable printer. This includes the dot-matrix or ink-jet you probably already own. Even if you have your own Compugraphic* font library you'd still like to use, Final Copy II is fully compatible, outputting to any graphic printer. Final Copy II is unrivalled in its range of fonts supported, and as you can see here, you have complete control over text formatting. When using the outline typefaces included, or any additional fonts, they'll output perfectly[1] - no matter what size they're scaled to - with absolutely *no* jaggies! Opening multiple documents also allows editing whilst printing in background mode (free memory dependent).



Compatible with all Amigas from A500 to the latest A1200/A4000 ranges with either a second floppy or a hard drive. A minimum of 1Mb. of available free RAM is required (A600 hard drive - 1.5Mb.) however, as with all advanced graphical programs, extra memory (eg. 1.5/2Mb. - the more the better) will be required to exploit all features fully.

Available from all good Amiga Software Dealers,
or from SoftWood Europe - please phone for a list of nationwide stockists.

ng Program of its Type
s words not ours)

Amiga Format think we have the Best Word Publisher. We'll show you why with a list of features that users tell us are important (below).
If you'd like to know who's also chosen Final Copy, Commodore specify it as an option with some of the most powerful Amigas available in the United States. What better recommendation could you have?

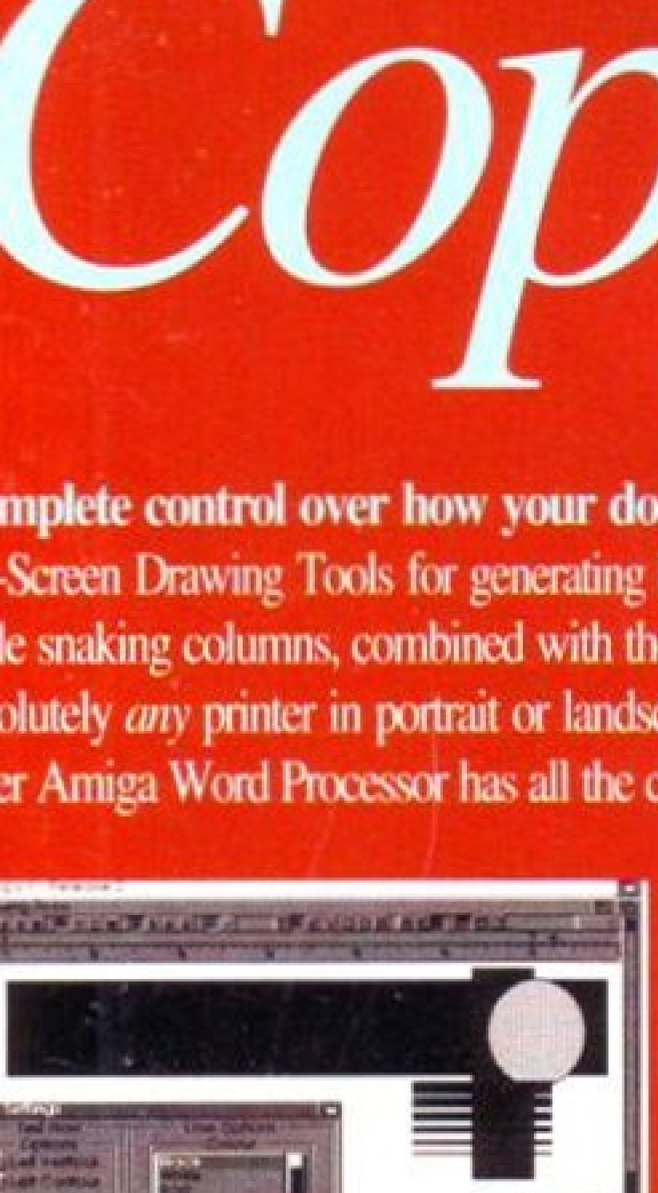


	Feature	Wordworth 2	Final Copy II
Fonts and Printing	Compatible with Standard Amiga Workbench 2 Compugraphic Fonts	YES	YES, But would Suggest use of Better PostScript Fonts
	Compatible with Standard Adobe Type 1 and Nimbus Q Scaleable Postscript Fonts	NO/NO	YES/YES
	PostScript Font Outlines on all Printers	NO	YES
	Maximum Number of PostScript Fonts	Limited to a total of 35	Infinite
	Download Extra Fonts to PostScript Printer	NO, Can't download extra fonts	YES, Automatic
	Landscape (Sideways) Printing on all Printers	NO	YES, Automatic
	Reclaim Printing Resolution (Quality) of Scaled (Reduced and Enlarged) Graphic Images	NO	YES, Same High Quality when Reduced and Enlarged
	Print any Text or Graphic in Colour	YES	YES
	No. of Colours Printed in Imported Pictures	Limited by Screen Mode Used	Output as Original Image
	Graphics Printing (HAM & IFF ILBM)	Good if Graphics not Scaled	Always Best Possible
	Text Width (Compress and Expand)	NO	YES
	Variable Text Obliquing (Slanted Text) Both Positive and Negative Attributes	NO	YES
Graphics	Box, Rounded Box, Circle, Oval, Line, Variable Border & Arrow Drawing Tools	NO	YES
	Crop (Trim) to Size Imported Graphics	NO	YES
	Supports A1200/4000 AGA Chipset	YES, 256 On-Screen Colours	YES, 256 On-Screen Colours
	Create Border around Graphics and Pictures	NO	YES
Editing and Formatting	British-English Spelling Checker	YES, Collins Proximity with Legal & Medical Supplements	YES, Collins Proximity with Legal & Medical Supplements
	British-English Thesaurus	YES, Collins 826000 Synonyms	YES, Collins 826000 Synonyms
	Page View Magnifications and Reductions	One Fixed Print Preview	7 Variable stages - 25% to 400%
	Edit Document while Magnified or Reduced	NO	YES
	Search & Replace (150 words in 9000, 7 Pages)	61 Seconds (On Amiga A1200)	7 Seconds (On Amiga A1200)
	Index and Table of Contents	YES, Automatic	NO, Requires Manual Entry
	Multiple Newspaper Style Snaking Columns	YES, 2 to 32	YES, 2 to 6
	Style Sheets, Master Pages, Title Pages	NO	YES
	Uses Standard Amiga Clipboard for Cutting & Pasting to and from Different Applications	NO	YES
	Small Caps Typographical Control	NO	YES
General Features	Conforms to Commodore's Amiga Standard 'Look & Feel' Guidelines	NO, Non Standard User Interface	YES
	On-Screen Maths (Column Addition)	NO	YES
	Import ASCII Text from any Word Processor	YES	YES
	UK Registration, Upgrade and Support	YES	YES
	Free Memory Required	1.5Mb. Minimum More Recommended	1Mb. Minimum More Recommended
	Free Ongoing Technical Phone Support	NO, £38 per year after 60 days	YES, Free of Charge
	Recommended Retail Price	£129.95	£99.95

Copy II

Release 2 available now!

mplete control over how your documents look, now you have it! Final Copy II incorporates: -Screen Drawing Tools for generating boxes, borders, and lines or arrows at any angle, Multiple Newspaper le snaking columns, combined with the unique ability to print the same PostScript quality outline fonts - on olutely *any* printer in portrait or landscape. These all mean that no matter what you may have thought, no er Amiga Word Processor has all the capabilities that Final Copy II users now simply take for granted!



The almost endless list of features includes On-Screen Object Drawing Tools (no more importing of borders from drawing packages to frame graphics or reverse-highlight text) with selectable rulers to aid precise positioning. Text Auto-Flows around graphic objects and imported pictures, which can be placed anywhere, scaled *and* cropped, with *no* loss of printing quality. Text can also be printed actually *over* graphics (refer to *"The Tiger"* heading on our document). No other Word Processor for the Amiga offers all this. *(*Compugraphic fonts require Kickstart 2 and Workbench 2.1 or later, with Final Copy II. They will not output on PostScript printers from any Word Processor - and would always be our second choice. †All fonts used in Final Copy II can print to the highest resolution that the printer will output).*

SoftWood - Quality software for your Amiga

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GameB

Nice to see you, come on down, it's time to double your money! Welcome to the latest instalment of your favourite gameshow, GameBusters. There are plenty of contestants vying for a prize, so here's your host, **Andy Nuttall**.

Chart busters

Legends of Valour

US Gold ■ 021-625 3366
Reviewed *AF44* – 91%



This doesn't look much like Happy Families. Well, I guess it must be Snap. Snap! Damn.

Want to win at cards? Well, read on to find out just how...

In the casino, they use marked cards on Wednesday night. Using the diagram above, you should be able to spot a marked card a mile off, so you can win every time! Thanks to Synthetic Dimensions for the tip.

Sleepwalker

WINNING TIP!

Ocean ■ 061-832 6633
Reviewed *AF44* – 91%



"I will give you even, my doggy, Sleepwalker, let all the children, kiss the moon..."

On the title screen just before the intro begins, type in DINGADINGDANGMYDANGA-LONGLINGLONG. This will make Lee's nose turn green. Begin the game, and press Return to skip levels, and the Tab key to replenish sleep and lives. (The cheat comes from the song *Jesus Built My Hotrod* by Ministry. Phew!) A Psygnosis game is soon to become the property of Peter Murray of Cleveland, as long as he gets in touch and tells us which game he wants.

WWF EUROPEAN RAMPAGE TOUR

Ocean ■ 061-832 6633
Reviewed *AF43* – 18%

For those of you who are having trouble with this rather poor game, here's a cheat:

Press the F10 key 10 times in the game, and your opponent should stand still. Now you can beat the hell out of him with even less effort than before!

Ian Robertson
Lichfield

ARCHER MACLEAN'S POOL

exclusive CHEAT!



Over to Chas 'n' Dave: "Snooker loopy, Nutts are we; me and him and them and me; there's no end to what you can do, with a load of balls and a snooker cue..." OK, so it's pool, who's complaining?

Virgin ■ 081-960 2255
Reviewed *AF40* – 89%

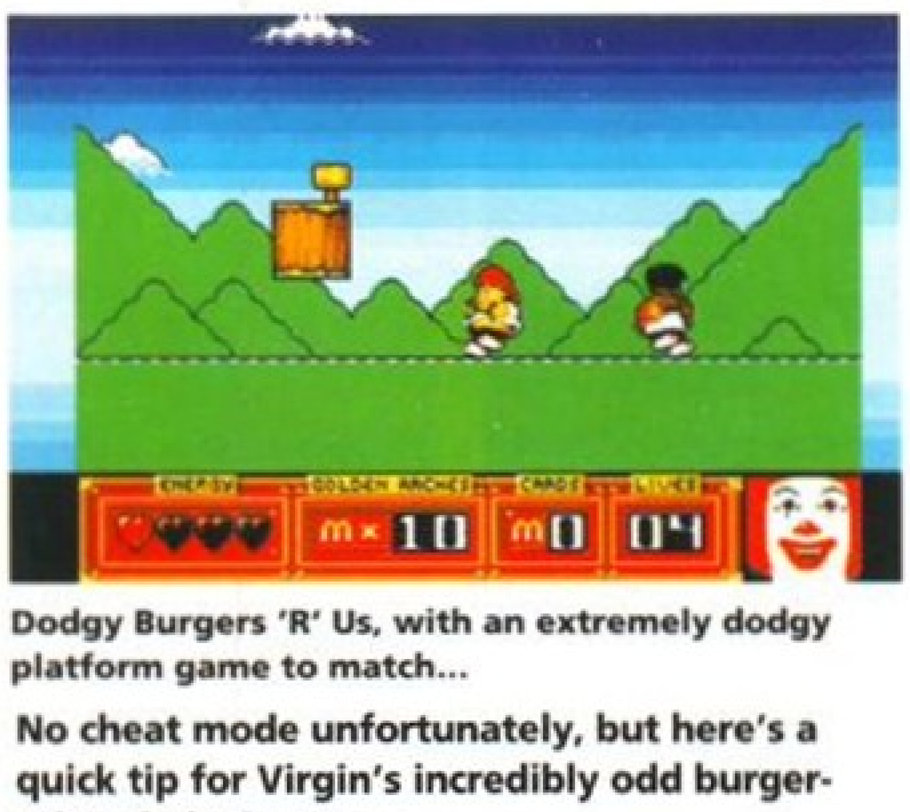
OK, everybody knows that there's a cheat for this brilliant pool simulator, but no-one except Archer himself knows what it is. Now though, he has revealed the code exclusively to GameBusters – and here it is!

Go into trick-shot mode, then type in the code V12F. You should hear a double-click if you've entered it correctly. Now go into the DEMO menu and you should see a new menu. Select the players for a demonstration mode and make the computer play itself. The scores will be logged to disk automatically, so you can leave the game playing itself while you go off and, er, have a bath or something. This way you can find out the actual abilities of each player, and find out just how good they are at playing pool!

Also, Mike Woozley of Swansea writes: "If you are about to lose against the computer while playing 9 Ball, press the Esc key just as it is lining up for the last remaining ball. This will cause the cue ball to follow the 9 ball into the pocket, leaving you to aim and pot the ball to win."

McDONALD LAND

Virgin ■ 081-960 2255
Reviewed *AF41* – 44%



Dodgy Burgers 'R' Us, with an extremely dodgy platform game to match...

No cheat mode unfortunately, but here's a quick tip for Virgin's incredibly odd burger-related platformer...

When you get to the bonus room, if you fall down to the exit, then press fire, it will open. While it's open, press P, and you should be given another go at the bonus room.

Would you like apple pie with that?

Adam and Andrew Waddilove
Camborne

ROAD RASH

WINNING TIP!

Electronic Arts ■ 0753 549442
Reviewed *AF41* – 84%



And Eddie Kidd goes for the world record in pick-pocketing policemen while riding at 60mph...

Here are some passwords for this biking game:

LEVEL 2, PANDA 600:

00000	00J00
102VS	21JUD

LEVEL 2, BANZAI 750:

00000	00J01
113BT	22KDP

...usters

SENSIBLE SOCCER

Renegade ■ 071-481 9214
Reviewed *AF*36 – 91%



Some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over. It is now. The Faroe Islands have won the cup again.

To recreate the 1966 World Cup between England and West Germany, simply load up Custom Teams, select the two nations, then select a friendly match. The game will now continue as normal, but everything will be in glorious black-and-white-o-vision! Thanks to Jon Hare for the info.

WIN A PSYGNOSIS GAME OF YOUR CHOICE!

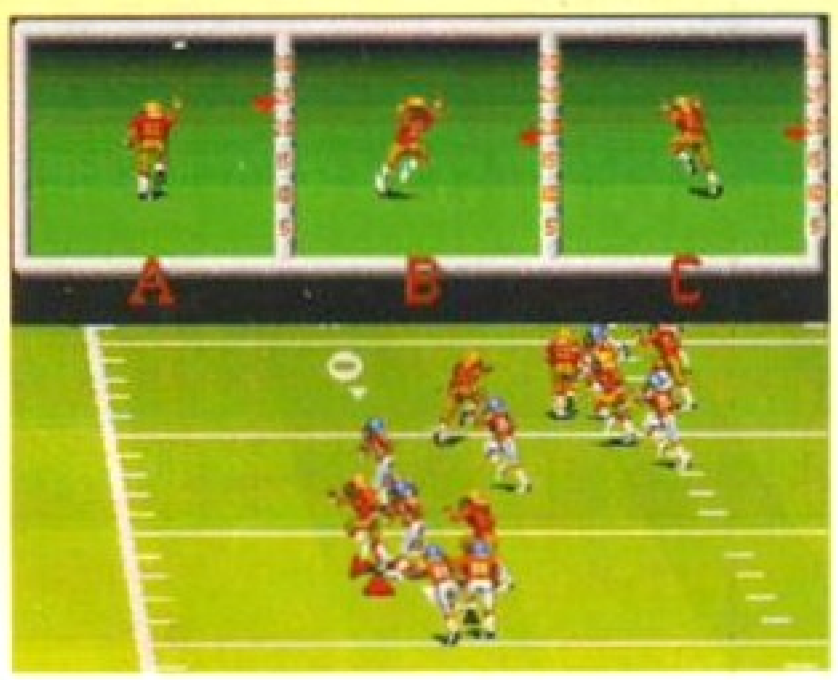


Psygnosis are the software house based in Liverpool, famous for such games as *Lemmings* and *Bill's Tomato Game*. They are kindly offering GameBusters readers the chance of winning any one of their games – including their latest release, the excellent *Lemmings 2*!

Simply send in your hints, tips, cheats or maps for any Amiga game to Nutts, and if it's good enough you could win! Make sure you note which game you would like – and remember, the better your tips, cheats or maps, the better your chances of winning. Byeeeee...

JOHN MADDEN'S AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Electronic Arts ■ 0753 549442
Reviewed *AF*33 – 94%



If you go to the password screen and type in the first three numbers as 665, and then any other numbers after that, you will be in a final game. The number you type in after 665 determines the team you play.

C Hussey
Lathom

"Eeh, them shoulder pads. When I was a lad, we put old newspapers on our shoulders."

CRYSTAL KINGDOM DIZZY

CodeMasters ■ 0926 814 132
Reviewed *AF*45 – 65%



Two game genie codes for the Codey's latest egg game:

Part two – Blackheart's Pirate Ship:
G5J 73Q 8HK
Part four – The Ice Palace:
83J 5G6 2KF

John Knott,
Fishlake

Dunno what that egg's got to smile about – those bats look partial to a bit of yolk...

LEVEL 3, BANZAI 750:
00000 00R00
013VS 32RV4
LEVEL 3, KAMIKAZE 750:
00000 00S20
117H5 33UV1
LEVEL 4, SHURIKEN 1000:
00000 01421
109G5 448VN
LEVEL 4, FERRUCI 850:
00000 01420
019G5 457VO
LEVEL 5, PANDA 750:
00000 01S91
00EGJ 567HM
LEVEL 5, DIABLO 1000:
00000 01S90
10EGJ 576IK

Also, typing in the following code will take you to level 1 with the Diablo 1000 bike and $7,815,100!
00001 04310
MSOPC 17PFM

Stephen Polley of Heathfield wins a Psygnosis game of his choice for this tip – get in contact and tell us which one you would like.

Replay Corner

Cor blimey, these Action Replay thingies must be getting popular – we've had loads of codes through lately, but here's the best one – for *that* beat-em-up...

STREETFIGHTER 2

US Gold ■ 021-625 3366
Reviewed *AF*43 – 87%



"Take that you brute" exclaimed Roger. "Ouch, that hurt" squealed Nigel. Violence isn't clever or funny.

CHARACTER

To use the final four bosses select a standard character, then when the character one vs character two screen appears, type M 4050D or M 4050F for player one or two.

Put in the number corresponding to the character you wish to be:

00 = Ryu	01 = E Honda
02 = Blanka	03 = Guile
04 = Ken	05 = Chun Li
06 = Zangief	07 = Dhalsim
08 = Balrog	09 = Vega
0A = Sagat	0B = M Bison

Now return to the game. Note that you will use the controls of the player that you first chose.

NUMBER OF WINS

Using the M command you can win easily by putting 02 into location 4063C, then deliberately losing the round.

TIME

The clock may be tampered with using the M command with this address: 16ADF
Handicap
The handicap option goes from 0 to 7, so change the value in the following addresses to 7F for an instant knock-out:
1up = 42D29 2up = 42D79

History Line 1914-1918

Blue Byte/Kompart ■ 0727 868005
Reviewed *AF*43 – 94%

So you want some tips for this brilliant strategy game? Look no further, as the German authors **Blue Byte** provide you with more tips and codes than you could waggle a twig at…


A

■ While playing on the German side, collect your units around the artillery, and wait for the approaching enemy (**A**). Then it's very easy to stop the enemy soldiers while the artillery is getting stronger.

■ Be aware of the short range of the light artillery, and that the heavy and medium artillery can't shoot one round when they have moved. Let's say you have a very strong artillery and (**B**) the enemy is waiting for this unit to move before attacking, and (**C**) your heavy artillery gets in the range of the enemy's heavy artillery. You should move light artilleries next to it, and wait for the next round. When the heavy artillery isn't able to react in the next round, your light artillery can, and covers the front range of heavy artillery.


B


C

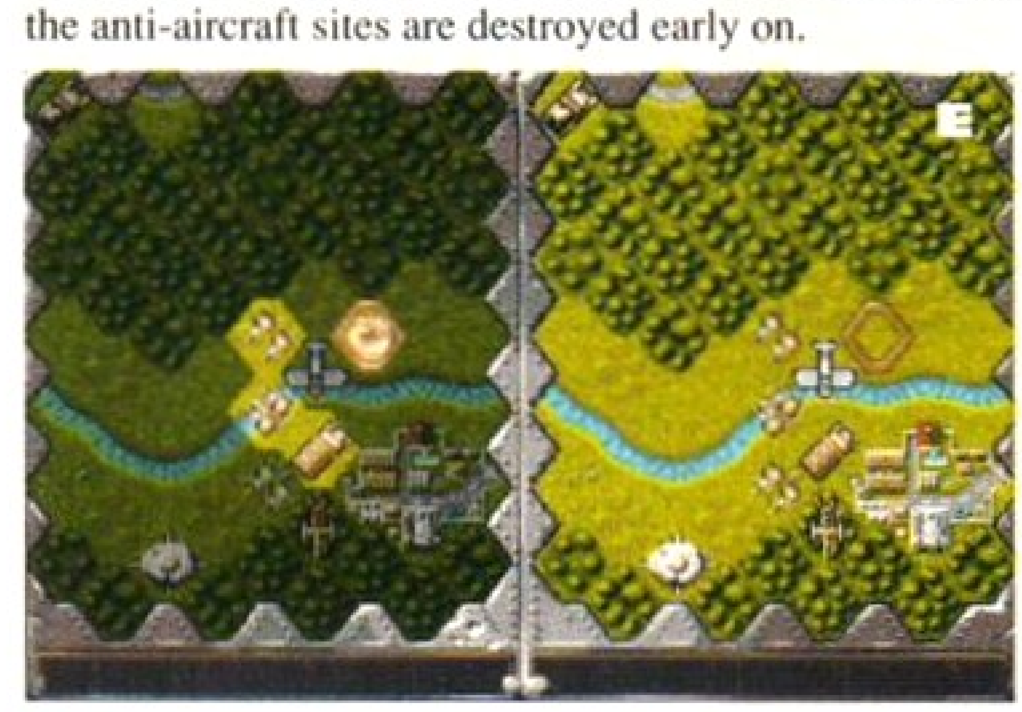
■ Repair damaged units. One fatal mistake when playing *Battle Isle* was producing new units, and letting the experienced ones fight in the frontline. Save your energy and spend on repairs. An experienced unit such as Elite Infantry can withstand most enemy tanks for at least two rounds until the reserve arrives.

■ Bunkers are difficult to take even with air support. It's not uncommon for even the best 'warriors' to lose their best troops while taking the enemy's HQ because they forgot about the bunkers.


D

■ When producing units, always make planes (**D**). Planes can only be attacked by Flak Units or Elite Infantry, and they're the most important in the game.

■ Try to destroy the anti-aircraft units first. Don't be afraid of aeroplane losses at the beginning. Sure, it's important to recreate the air squadrons, but because the computer will mainly build infantry it's important that the anti-aircraft sites are destroyed early on.


E

■ If the situation is hopeless then try and: collect your remaining units, make sure you have more than one infantry, then set one infantry to the front and hold the others back (**E**). When you attack, the computer will try to destroy the infantry, while you can position your artillery and bomb him into the dust.

■ Keep your strong units in motion, and save them from enemy attack. This enables you to open more than one front and entangle the enemy.

■ Use your planes to weaken approaching troops while still out of reach for the artillery.

■ The best way to win is to hold the positions you have at the beginning of the game. Weaken the enemy troops whenever you can, and *then* attack. Strategically, *History Line* is a rather more defensive game than *Battle Isle*.

IN DANGER OF BECOMING HISTORY? WE HAVE JUST THE THING…

In case you're stuck beyond repair, here are the level codes:

GERMAN				ALLIED				TWO PLAYER			
1	PULSE	13	GOTHA	1	BATLE	13	SIGNS	1	TRACK	13	GRAND
2	CIVIL	14	BALON	2	GOOSE	14	HOUSE	2	HUSAR	14	ROYAL
3	MOUSE	15	PAUSE	3	SPORT	15	SIGMA	3	BEAST	15	WATER
4	VENOM	16	ELITE	4	BIMBO	16	SEVEN	4	PLATE	16	SKILL
5	NOISE	17	INFRA	5	TEMPO	17	ZOMBI	5	LIGHT	17	SKULL
6	RIGHT	18	HILLS	6	BARON	18	MOVES	6	SCROL	18	AUDIO
7	ORKAN	19	COBRA	7	BUMMM	19	BLADE	7	VIRUS	19	SPELL
8	FRONT	20	ATLAS	8	LEVEL	20	ZORRO	8	BISON	20	CAMEL
9	RATIO	21	AMPER	9	TOXIN	21	STONE	9	DRUCK	21	FLAGS
10	PARTS	22	RHEIN	10	PRINC	22	MOSEL	10	TROLL	22	STORY
11	PLANE	23	CANDL	11	CLEAN	23	ORDER	11	UBOOT	23	SCOUT
12	FLAME	24	STERN	12	XENON	24	SODOM	12	DROID	24	GREEN

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Grandslam's **David Birch** gives tips for each hole of the first course. Now you've no reason for that poor handicap!



1. Keep your tee shot on the left of the fairway for attacking second shot position.



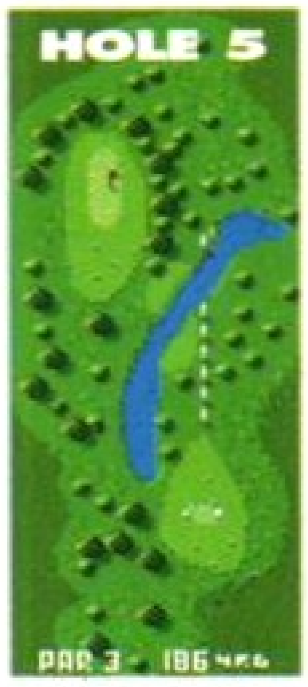
2. You can alter the directional set-up here. Hit diagonally across the tee.



3. A par five which isn't long, but does require accuracy from tee to green.



4. A long straight drive will leave only a pitching wedge on to the green.



5. A smooth swing and good connection should see you avoid the water.



6. If you practiced fade in coaching, this short par four is a birdie chance.



7. Driving between the water hazards will leave a birdie chance on this par five.



8. A four or five-wood fade is the tee shot here. Then it's a medium iron on to the green.



9. Try to put the water out of your mind, and swing straight. A four is a good score here.



10. No hazards around the screen here, so now's your chance to go for an 'ace'.



11. Make the most of this simple par four. Birdies don't often come any easier than this.



12. If your second doesn't reach the green, a chip and putt will still get you one under par.



13. Select the best club and strength, and try and make the fairway off the tee in two.



14. Attack the pin and put backspin on the shot for a good position and birdie chance.



15. Play percentage golf, and get your drive on to the island for good-positioning.



16. Drive long, go for the green in two, guaranteeing at least a birdie – but be careful.



17. Water, trees, bunkers and rough. If you make a bogey, smile, it could easily be nine.



18. Try to drive over the right of the fairway, trees on the left block your way on to the green.

OH NO! IT'S THE PATHETIC TIPS!

Well, I'm disappointed. We only have three crap tips for you, dear reader, because it seems that only sane people have been sending them in.

Worry not, however, for the tips we have are rather amusing (if maybe a little contrived). Here they are then:

Kevin Edwards of Birkenhead writes: "I have a universal cheat which will work for ALL shoot-em-ups. When the game begins, simply press the fire-button to kill the monsters, thus allowing you to progress beyond." Read *Viz* do we, Kev?



This is the situation. You're confronted by a large and horrific monster. Try and kill it by shooting it.

Becky Hughes of Bromsgrove comes in with this extremely bizarre tip for MicroProse's *Formula One Grand Prix*. She says: "Enter a race, then make your car indestructible. Drive backwards around the track, and smash into each car as it comes along, until you have nobbled all of your opponents. Now you can simply turn around, go the right way around the track, and win the race easily!" Thanks, Becky! Have an *AF* enamel pin badge.



Isn't Nigel doing well over in America. Just goes to prove that it's the driver and not the car, right?

Lastly, we have Gareth Watt of Dundee: "I have discovered another exciting key combo which you can perform in *Monkey Island 2*. Instead of holding down both Amiga keys and both Alt keys, try holding down both Amiga keys and the Ctrl key. The screen goes white and the computer resets. Spooky or what?" Yes, Gareth, very clever – I don't think! Oh, by the way, using the word 'spooky' is neither big or clever. Anyway, have an exclusive and priceless *Amiga Format* pin badge for your crap tip. Until next month, keep 'em coming!



"Stranded on an island, branded a fool, what will they say, Monday in Whitby" sang the Captain.

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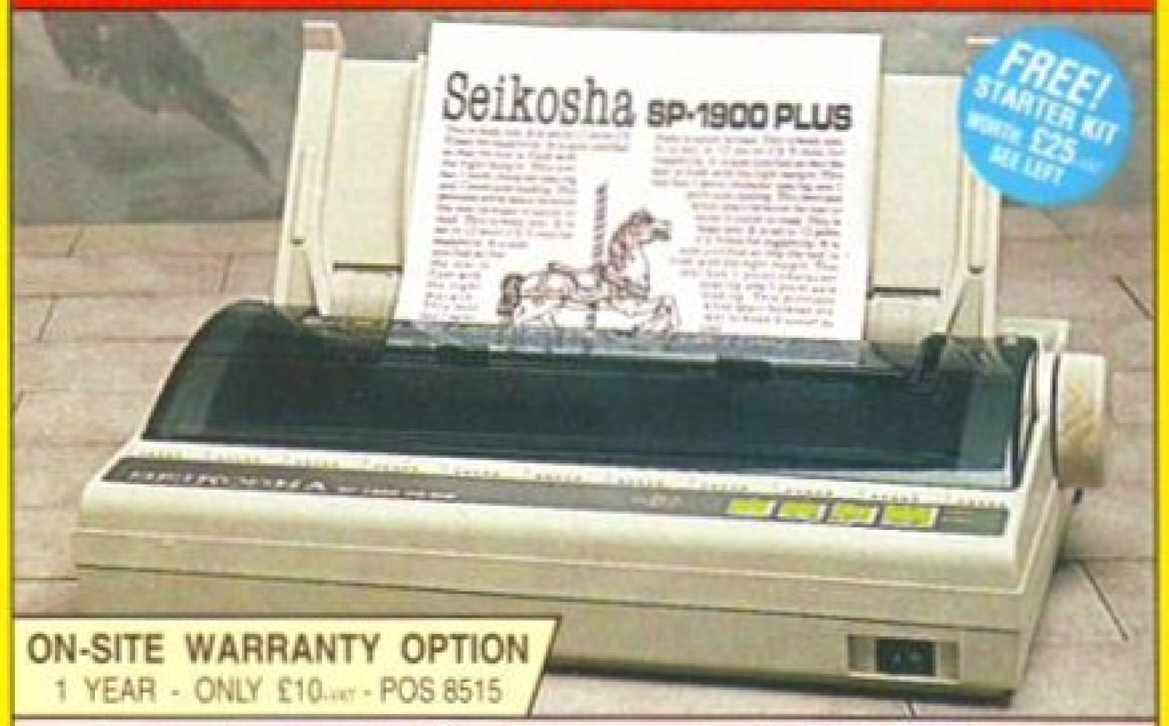


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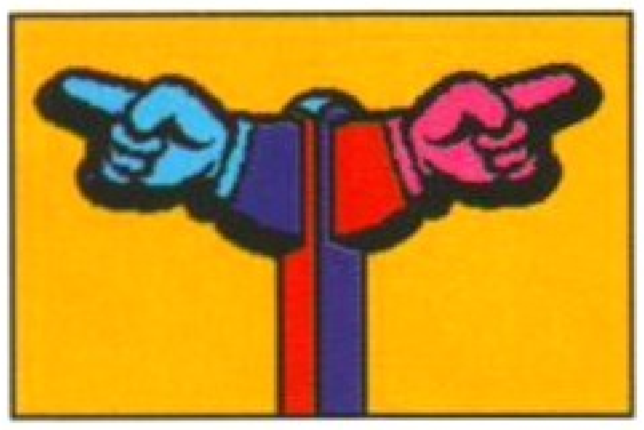
1993

Feb	6 London	Novotel, Hammersmith
	7 Wales	Univ. Union, Park Place, Cardiff
	13 London	Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey J9/10 M25
	20 North West	Haydock Park Racecourse J23 M6
	21 Scotland	City Hall, Candleriggs, Glasgow
	27 Hemel H/stead	Dacorum Pavilion, The Marlowes
	28 West	Brunel Centre, Templemeads, Bristol
March	6 Leicester	De Montfort Hall, Granville Road
	7 North	Univ. Sports Centre, Calverley St., Leeds
	13 North East	Seaburn Centre, Sea Road, Sunderland
	20 London	Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey J9/10 M25
	21 West Midlands	National Motorcycle Museum J6 M42
	27 North West	Haydock Park Racecourse J23 M6
April	3 Scotland	Adam House, Chambers St., Edinburgh
	4 Scotland	City Hall, Candleriggs, Glasgow
	11 Brighton	Corn Exchange, Church St.
	17 Nottingham	Jesse Boot Centre, University
	18 West Midlands	National Motorcycle Museum J6 M42
	24 London	Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey J9/10 M25
	25 West	Brunel Centre, Templemeads, Bristol
May	1 North East	Northumbria Centre, Washington, Dist. 12
	2 Leeds	Univ. Sports Centre, Calverley St., Leeds
	22 London	Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey J9/10 M25
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	29 Leicester	De Montfort Hall, Granville Road
	30 West Midlands	National Motorcycle Museum J6 M42
June	19 London	Novotel, Hammersmith
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INDY'S CRETE TIPS



If you're looking for Atlantis, you should cast your eye on me.

I've come to a halt in the caves under the island of Crete in *Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis*. I have the gold box and the two beads of orichalcum, but I can't find my way out. You're my only hope!

Tom Gooding
Lincoln

OK, you need to go back down the first elevator to where you left Sophia, then walk through the door at the back. Tell Sophia she won't fit, that it's narrow, and that she'd only fit through with luck. Go through the doorway and up the stairs.

Use the amber fish, talk to Sophia, then ask her to give you the necklace. Tell her you need to hide it, do as she says, then tell her that you want to put it in the gold box. Go into the next room, down some steps, then use the amber fish. Use the ship rib on the wall, and walk through the door on the right. Use the sunstone, then the moonstone, and finally the worldstone.

Line up the rising sun with the horns, then the waning moon and the city with darkness, then press the spindle. Walk through the door, don't argue with Kerner, and give him the stones. Use the ship rib on the rocks to the right, then walk down to the submarine.

Thanks to Janine Hill of Manchester – write in and tell us which Psygnosis game you want!

BIZARRE INC

Normally you get requests for cheats to help complete games, but I'm asking for a cheat that will make *Sensible Soccer* harder! This is because I find that all the teams are too easy to beat after a little practice.

Peter van der Spoel
Holland



England may have won the World Cup in 1966, but the *Sensible Soccer* World Cup is going to the Faroe Islands.

Well, there isn't really an official cheat to make the game more difficult, but you could always try one of the following:

1) Turn your TV/monitor off while playing.

2) Turn your joystick upside-down while playing.

3) Get your mum to play, then go and stand in the bathroom and shout directions to her in Swahili. That one's a bitch.

SING A RAINBOW

I have reached Monster Island in the game *Rainbow Islands*, and collected all the jewels, but I can't get past the Dracula at the top of level 12. Does collecting all the jewels make any difference to your progression to the fourth level?

Liz Gittens
Sheffield

Getting past Dracula is much too difficult, so yes, you must collect the jewels in the order of the rainbow (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet) to open the door. Then jump into the door to progress.



Bub and Bob, or Bob and Bub? Or Dweeb and Droog? I'm not sure, but it's easy to find out with the above codes.

NEXT SAMURAI

I'm pulling my hair out trying to get past level eight of *First Samurai*. After completing all eight levels (including the end-of-level guardians) in the correct order, my Amiga tells me to insert disk two which is already inserted. No amount of joystick waggling seems to have any effect – is it something I'm doing wrong or does my Amiga simply hate me?

C A English
Syston

Ah, I assume that you have First Samurai *from a UBI Soft compilation. Apparently a few of the disks produced were faulty, and this unfortunately caused the machine to hang up after level eight.*

All is not lost, though – simply pack up your disks, and send them to UBI Soft at Finchley House, 707 High Road, North Finchley, London, N12 0BT, and they will replace them for you

ALIEN BUG

Please, please could you help me with level eight in *Alien Breed Special Edition '92*? Where do I find duct three to proceed to level nine? Also, how do I get to the room on level eight with the two free men inside?

Tim Ridgers
Northwich



If you're stuck in level eight, it could be because of a bug. Who better than *Amiga Format* to help you out?

Both of these problems are caused by a graphic bug in some copies of Alien Breed '92, *which went out in a bad batch. It can be fixed by using a small program which we included on the* **AF**43 *Coverdisk, called* Alien Breed Fix. *If you haven't got issue 43, it's still available from* **Amiga Format** *back issues (Page 158).*

I WANT TO BREAK FREE

Please print a cheat for *Arkanoid 2*. I realise that it's an old game and put an end to my frustration.

Mark Sampson
Waterlooville

Here's a list of cheats that may, or may not, work:

1) Press Caps Lock then type 'DALEY88' or 'DEBBIE S' during play for infinite lives;

2) Type 'PETERJOHNSONWANTSCHEAT' or 'MAGENTA' on the title screen, then press S to open the exits at any point;

3) Type 'ROBOCOPPER' on the title screen to activate the continue mode;

4) Hold down the left mouse button while loading for an interesting commercial break.

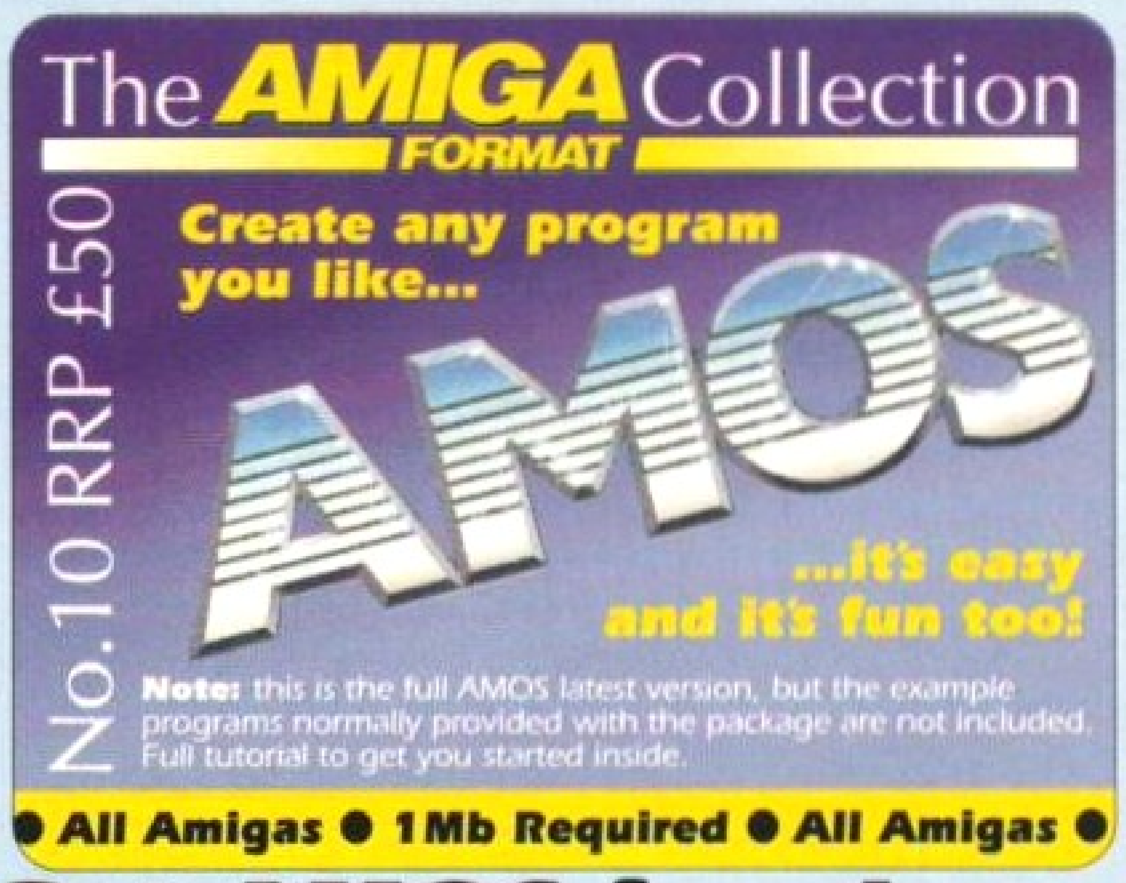
WIN A PRIZE!

If you have any problems with Amiga games, don't hesitate to write in to Helping Hand at the usual address, stating clearly what your problem is and in which game it occurs. If you know the answer to any of the questions posed above, write in, and you could win a fabulous Psygnosis games! See ya next time!

If you're stuck on a particular game or have a solution to a letter printed in the magazine, then write it down and send it in to us at HELPING HAND Amiga Format, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.



SOCCER KID
OUR LITTLE FRIEND STOPS OFF FOR A SOFT DRINK IN THE LAND OF SUN-BED SNATCHERS...... GERMANY!!!!
KRISALIS
WHO OWNS ZA GREEN CAR OUTSIDE?
DAT IST MINEN!!
YOUR METER RAN OUT ZO I MUST GIVE YOU A PARKING TICKET!!
DAT IST THE THIRD VON ZIS VEEK!!
BAP
COR! I THOUGHT ONLY THE ENGLISH KICKED THEIR PENALTIES OVER THE BAR!!



Get AMOS for cheap

This tutorial is designed to help you get the most from the programming language *AMOS*. If you don't have *AMOS*, but would like to have a go at programming your Amiga, you're in luck, because *Amiga Format* featured the complete *AMOS* program on the January 1993 Coverdisk.

Now, if you didn't buy that issue, don't worry because you can still get your hands on the truly spectacular *AMOS* language. Turn now to Page 158 and buy it from back issues.



The main title screen was created using *DPaint IV*. The text was anti-aliased by hand and a single bullethole created by freehand using the magnify mode. Then the same hole was stamped five times across the screen.

Getting the most from your AMOS COVERDISK

It's time for another dip into the AMOS programming language, this time we show you how to program your own bug-blasting shoot-em-up. Just complete the easy-to-follow steps.

So far this series has covered how you go about setting up an *AMOS* program: an elementary game of the *Pong* variety and last issue a handy little database utility. But what's this month's tutorial about? What do the words *SWIV*, *Project X* and *Smash TV* mean to you? They're all shoot-em-ups, and that's the genre you're going to be programming in; it won't quite be of the calibre of the aforementioned, but you've got to start somewhere. I mean the first car Enzo Ferrari designed wasn't a 250 GTO you know!

Workin' on a game gang

Constructing games in *AMOS* is easy, because you can create graphics and sounds elsewhere and incorporate them in your *AMOS* programs. Graphics can be made in *Deluxe Paint* or any other IFF paint program; sprites can be built using sprite editors and sounds can be sampled using any sampler. The results of these exploits can be installed as part of an *AMOS* program, saved into memory banks and hidden in memory.

Once you've loaded Amiga IFF graphics with the LOAD IFF command you can pack them away into memory banks, using the SPACK command, like so:

```
Spack 0 To 6
```

which packs the contents of screen 0 into memory bank 6. To unpack the spacked memory bank on to the screen you just have to type:

```
Unpack 6 To 0
```

and after a few milliseconds waiting while the screen is decompacted, it appears on the screen. The sounds in your game can be similarly tucked away from sight, using sample banks. The sound samples can be made using your own sampler, or gleaned from a BBS or PD disk. You make them into a sample bank using Sample_Bank_Maker, *AMOS* on *AMOS* disks, or the sample bank program with *Easy AMOS*.

Sprite banks can be created by designing the sprites in *DPaint* and grabbing them using either the *AMOS* sprite grabber or SpriteX.

BugHunt

This month's program has all the above features, and splurges together to make a bug-blasting shoot-em-up. The aim of the game is to blast the bugs and score points. It's deliberately elementary to allow you to grasp the basic concepts. Suggestions on how to make the game more complex will be covered next issue.

1) But on with some bug blasting – firstly load the sprites, sound samples and IFF graphics from disk. Load *AMOS*, and with the ***AF*** Coverdisk in DF0: hit the ESC key to get to Direct mode. Type:

```
Dir$="df0:AMOS_Material/"
```

Then type:

```
Dir
```

and a listing of the contents of the AMOS drawer on your disk will come up on the screen.

You will see files, called:

```
title.iff
sprites.abk
sounds.abk
```

To load in the IFF file, type:

```
Load IFF "title.iff",0
```

The picture will load on to the screen. Now type:

```
Spack 0 To 6
```

2) After a pause, the screen will be packed in the memory bank. You can find out if this is true if you type:

```
ListBank
```

and a list of the memory banks will be shown.

3) Next you load the sprites and sounds by typing:

```
load "sprites.abk",1
load "sounds.abk",5
```

the comma 5 means the abk file will be loaded into bank 5.

Type in the listing. First to hide the cursor and the pointer, plus turn off the flashing colour, colour 3:

```
Hide : Curs Off : Flash Off
```

Then unpack your title picture:

Continued overleaf

That listing in full

Here's this month's list:

```
Rem ** BugHunt.AMOS        **
Rem ** 1993 Amiga Format **
Rem
Hide : Curs Off : Flash Off
Unpack 6 To 0
Dim ALIEN(5)
For I=1 To 5 : Sam Play 15,1,20000 :
Wait 5 : Next I
Wait 25
Locate ,10 : Paper 0 : Pen 4 : Centre
"< press a key >"
Wait Key
Flash Off
Screen Open 1,320,200,16,Lowres
Double Buffer
Get Sprite Palette
SCORE=0
NEWGAME:
LIVES=3 : BUGS=5 : SX=50 : SY=100 :
AX=320 : AY=30
MISSFLAG=0 : SHIPFLAG=0 : ALIENFLAG=0
Curs Off
Cls 0
Locate 15,10 : Paper 0 : Print "Score:
";SCORE
Wait 100 : Cls 0 : Ink 15
For Z=1 To 50
   Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200)
Next Z
For Z=1 To 5
   ALIEN(Z)=0
Next Z
Repeat
   If Jleft(1) and SX>30 Then SX=SX-2
      If Jright(1) and SX<320 Then
SX=SX+2
   If Jup(1) and SY>0 Then SY=SY-2
   If Jdown(1) and SY<199 Then SY=SY+2
   Bob 1,SX,SY,1
    If SHIPFLAG=1 Then Bob Off 1 :
SX=50 : SY=100
   Wait Vbl
   For J=1 To 5
      If ALIEN(J)=1 Then Goto SKIP
      Bob J+2,AX,AY+SPACE,3
      SKIP:
      SPACE=SPACE+30
      If SPACE>120 Then SPACE=0
   Next J
   AX=AX-2
   If AX=-30 Then ALIENFLAG=0
   If AX=-30 Then SHIPFLAG=0
   If AX=-30 Then AX=320
    If Fire(1) and MISSFLAG=0 Then Sam
Play 1 : MISSFLAG=1 : Bob 2,SX,SY,2 :
MX=SX : MY=SY
    If MISSFLAG=1 Then Add MX,5 : Bob
2,MX,MY,2 : If MX>SX+100 Then Bob Off
2 : MISSFLAG=0
   If Bob Col(1,3 To 7) and SHIPFLAG=0
Then Gosub _BOOM
   If Bob Col(2,3 To 7) and ALIEN-
FLAG=0 Then Gosub _ABOOM
Until LIVES=0 or BUGS=0
Sam Play 15,1,1500
Wait 100
For Z=1 To 7
   Bob Off Z
Next Z
Goto NEWGAME
_BOOM:
Boom
SHIPFLAG=1
Bob 1,SX,SY,4
Wait 10
LIVES=LIVES-1
Return
_ABOOM:
Boom
ALIENFLAG=1
Bob Off 2
D=0
For A=3 To 7
   If Col(A) Then D=A
Next A
If D=3 Then _OFFSET=0
If D=4 Then _OFFSET=30
If D=5 Then _OFFSET=60
If D=6 Then _OFFSET=90
If D=7 Then _OFFSET=120
Bob D,AX,AY+_OFFSET,4
ALIEN(D-2)=1
Wait 10 : Bob Off D
BUGS=BUGS-1
SCORE=SCORE+100
Return
```

```
Unpack 6 To 0
```

The picture is unpacked from memory and on to the screen. To accompany the title screen play back the sound sample number 1 – a gunshot. In this instance play it fast five times using a for/next loop:

```
For I=1 To 5 : Sam Play 15,1,20000 :
Wait 5 : Next I
```

4) SAM PLAY can be used in two ways. If you say SAM PLAY 1 it plays the first sound sample in bank 5 at the playback speed it was recorded. If you say SAM PLAY 15,1,20000 however it plays sample one at a frequency of 20,000.

5) After a pause, you're into the main bit of the game. The game screen is a 16-colour 320,200 (NTSC size for US dudes) screen. Turn on DOUBLE BUFFER which is a special screen buffering mode for sprite moves, making them smoother. Then say:

```
Get Sprite Palette
```

in order to grab the palette of the sprites you have created. (GET SPRITE PALETTE works for bobs or sprites, don't forget this.) And then finally you set your score to 0, and that ends the basic set-up of the *Bughunt* game.

The main loop

1) Each time the game starts afresh it needs to get back to this point, so give it a label.

```
NEWGAME:
```

Each time the game comes around to this point it resets all the variables to their initial states, which is why it's usually called 'initialisation'!

```
LIVES=3 : BUGS=5 : SX=50 : SY=100 :
AX=320 : AY=30
MISSFLAG=0 : SHIPFLAG=0 : ALIENFLAG=0
```

Obviously LIVES and BUGS are the amount of lives you have for each game and the amount of bugs to hunt. SY, SX, AY and AX are the start points of the ship and the aliens.

2) After printing the score and waiting for you to read them, draw a random starfield on screen:

```
Ink 15
For Z=1 To 50
   Plot Rnd(320),Rnd(200)
Next Z
```

This means that 50 dots with colour 15 (white) are plotted randomly to any location between 0 and 320 across and 0 and 200 down.

3) The next routine is the main program loop, which repeats until BUGS=0 or LIVES=0, either you are dead or all the bugs are. The first bit looks at the joystick and moves the ship in the direction you choose, using JLEFT, JRIGHT etc. The variables for sprite co-ordinates in the program are called SX and SY for the SHIP, AX and AY for the aliens, and MX and MY for the missiles.

```
Repeat
   If Jleft(1) and SX>30 Then SX=SX-2
   If Jright(1) and SX<320 Then SX=SX+2
   If Jup(1) and SY>0 Then SY=SY-2
   If Jdown(1) and SY<199 Then SY=SY+2
```

For example if the stick is sensed pointing left, then 2 is subtracted from the horizontal variable SX, moving the ship two pixels to the left. This routine also checks to see if you are trying to stray off the screen.

Any X co-ordinate less than 30 and you stay put, any greater than 320 you stay put, and the same is true in the Y axis. Having figured out if there's anything needed to be done, the ship sprite is positioned on the screen with:

```
Bob 1,SX,SY,1
```

4) If you're blown up by hitting anything (checked in another part of the program) a flag called SHIPFLAG is set to 1. The next line to see if this flag is set and if it is it rubs out the sprite and resets SX and SY to the start position.

```
If SHIPFLAG=1 Then Bob Off 1 : SX=50 :
SY=100
```

The next line takes away 2 from the X position of the aliens, and puts it back in AX. This means that each time the program loop goes around the aliens step forward two pixels.

5) Next you have to check to see if the aliens have managed to reach the edge of the screen, AX position - 30 should do it; make sure the sprites are completely off the screen.

Continued overleaf

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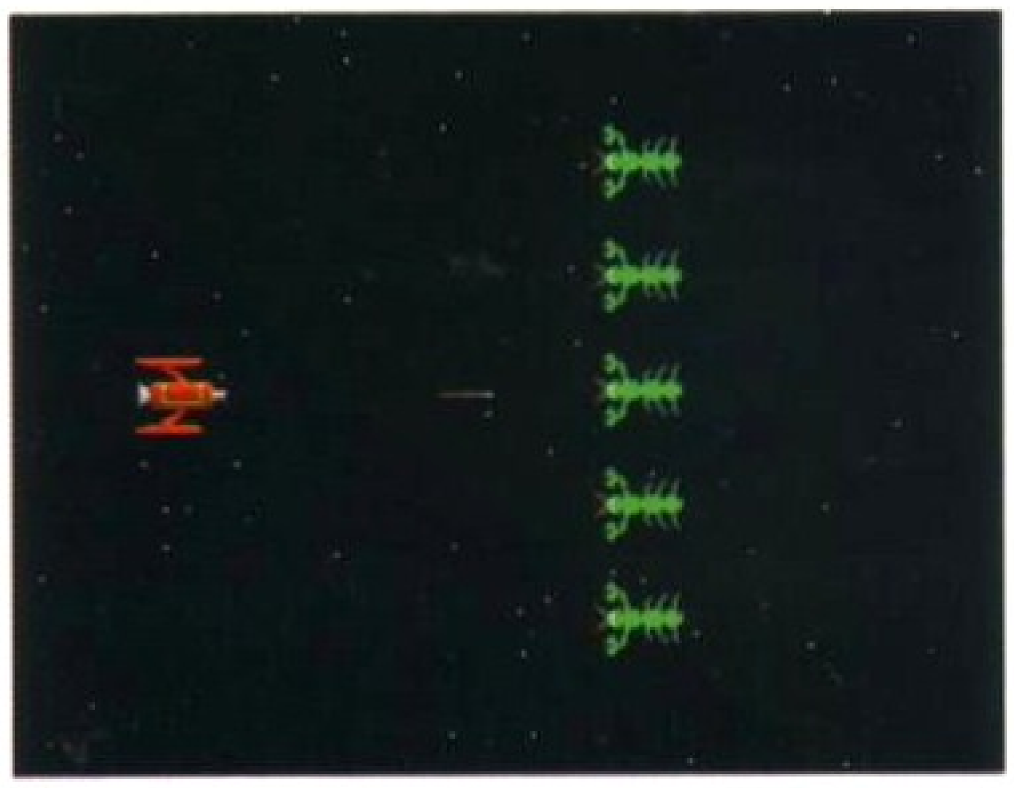


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The action takes place on the main game screen. The starfield is created with a random dot-plotting routine, all the other graphics were created in the SpriteX sprite designer program and saved as a sprite bank.

```
f AX=-30 Then ALIENFLAG=0
If AX=-30 Then SHIPFLAG=0
If AX=-30 Then AX=320
```

You have to test three times, once for resetting the flag for the ship, once for resetting the flag for the aliens, and once to rest the aliens to the other side of the screen by setting their X co-ordinate to 320 again.

6) OK, once you've checked for the joystick and the position of the aliens as they tramp across the screen, then check for the fire-button. This is slightly trickier, because you have to check only once for the fire-button, and then stop checking once it has been detected or you get a horrible staccato rasping noise. To guard against this, set a flag as soon as the button is pressed:

```
If Fire(1) and MISSFLAG=0 Then Sam Play
1 : MISSFLAG=1 : Bob 2,SX,SY,2 : MX=SX
: MY=SY
```

Once this flag is set, it can be tested for each time you look for the fire-button. This means that each time you press the fire-button it only fires once or twice a second instead of several hundred. Then you test to see if a missile is active before you move it. If you don't test this then you could find ghostly missiles whizzing across the top of your screen before the game starts.

```
If MISSFLAG=1 Then Add MX,5 : Bob
2,MX,MY,2 : If MX>SX+100 Then Bob Off 2
: MISSFLAG=0
```

7) Next there's the collision detection, where bobs 1 and 2 are checked to see if they are hitting anything. If the flags are 0 then they haven't just hit something and can safely blow up.

```
If Bob Col(1,3 To 7) and SHIPFLAG=0
Then Gosub _BOOM
If Bob Col(2,3 To 7) and ALIENFLAG=0
Then Gosub _ABOOM
```

8) More of _ABOOM in a minute, but for now let's just say that both these lines check for collisions. The first line checks to see if the ship (Bob 1) has collided with any aliens (Bobs 3 to 7). If it has then enter the subroutine _BOOM to explode the ship and take off a life. As soon as a collision is detected, a check is made to see if the flag is equal to 0, and if it is, the subroutine is activated. As soon as the subroutine is actioned, the flag is set to 1 so the check is not made. The second line checks to see if the missile hits any aliens in the same way.

9) If you hit an alien with your ship and you go boom, then it simply means you explode. If a collision is detected you are sent to the subroutine which makes the ship blow up.

```
_BOOM:
Boom
SHIPFLAG=1
Bob 1,SX,SY,4
Wait 10
LIVES=LIVES-1
Return
```

First you make a boom noise with one of the built-in explosion noises, then you set the SHIPFLAG flag to 1 so no other collisions can be detected. Next the ship is replaced with image 4 from the sprite bank which is the explosion, and one life is lost by subtracting 1 from the LIVES variable.

10) Now check how many lives or bugs there are left, and if either of these variables is 0 then you play the sound sample slowly to make a long booming noise, and turn off all the bobs using a little loop:

```
Until LIVES=0 or BUGS=0
Sam Play 15,1,1500
Wait 100
For Z=1 To 7
   Bob Off Z
Next Z
Goto NEWGAME
```

The GOTO NEWGAME part sends us back to the beginning to reset everything and start the game again.

Alien plotting

1) Plotting the alien positions on screen, and keeping a note of which are dead is done by making an array called ALIEN() and storing the flags in it. At the start of the game you dimension an array of five locations:

```
Dim ALIEN(5)
```

Each time the game resets you have to toggle all these flags back to 0 and do this with a little loop:

```
For Z=1 To 5
   ALIEN(Z)=0
Next Z
```

2) To print each alien on the screen you have to look at the array, and in the middle of the program loop, you only print an alien up on screen if it's still active:

```
For J=1 To 5
   If ALIEN(J)=1 Then Goto SKIP
   Bob J+2,AX,AY+SPACE,3
   SKIP:
   SPACE=SPACE+30
   If SPACE>120 Then SPACE=0
Next J
```

As each alien is offset 30 pixels away from the one above, you skip to the label SKIP if an alien is dead, then add 30 to the variable SPACE which tells the computer where to print the next sprite, leaving a big gap where the sprite should be. Now even when an alien is dead the remaining aliens keep the same position in the wave. The subroutine _ABOOM or 'alien boom' says an alien is hit, and sets the flag for that alien in the ALIEN() array to 1, meaning it is dead.

```
_ABOOM:
Boom
ALIENFLAG=1
```

Then it turns off the missile sprite:

```
Bob Off 2
```

and checks to see which alien bought it, using the COL(A) command. This returns the sprite number of the collision, and this number is used to set the flag in the array.

```
D=0
For A=3 To 7
   If Col(A) Then D=A
Next A
```

3) Then you need to find out where the explosion should take place, by seeing which alien got hit and setting the correct offset to place the explosion.

```
If D=3 Then _OFFSET=0
If D=4 Then _OFFSET=30
If D=5 Then _OFFSET=60
If D=6 Then _OFFSET=90
If D=7 Then _OFFSET=120
```

and finally the explosion is substituted for the alien which got hit by the missile, and the flag is set for that alien. Notice how the explosion is placed to match the alien that got hit. (In a more complex game with more random waves you would have to calculate the position of the alien more exactly.)

```
Bob D,AX,AY+_OFFSET,4
ALIEN(D-2)=1
Wait 10
```

4) The reason you subtract 2 from the number of the sprite, which go from 3 to 7, is to get the right number of the array, which goes from 1 to 5. So flag 1 equals sprite 3. The wait command pauses for a fifth of a second to show the explosion before the game moves on.

```
Bob Off D
BUGS=BUGS-1
SCORE=SCORE+100
```

Before you return from the subroutine, you set the score, take one away from the number of alien bugs and turn off the alien which got hit.

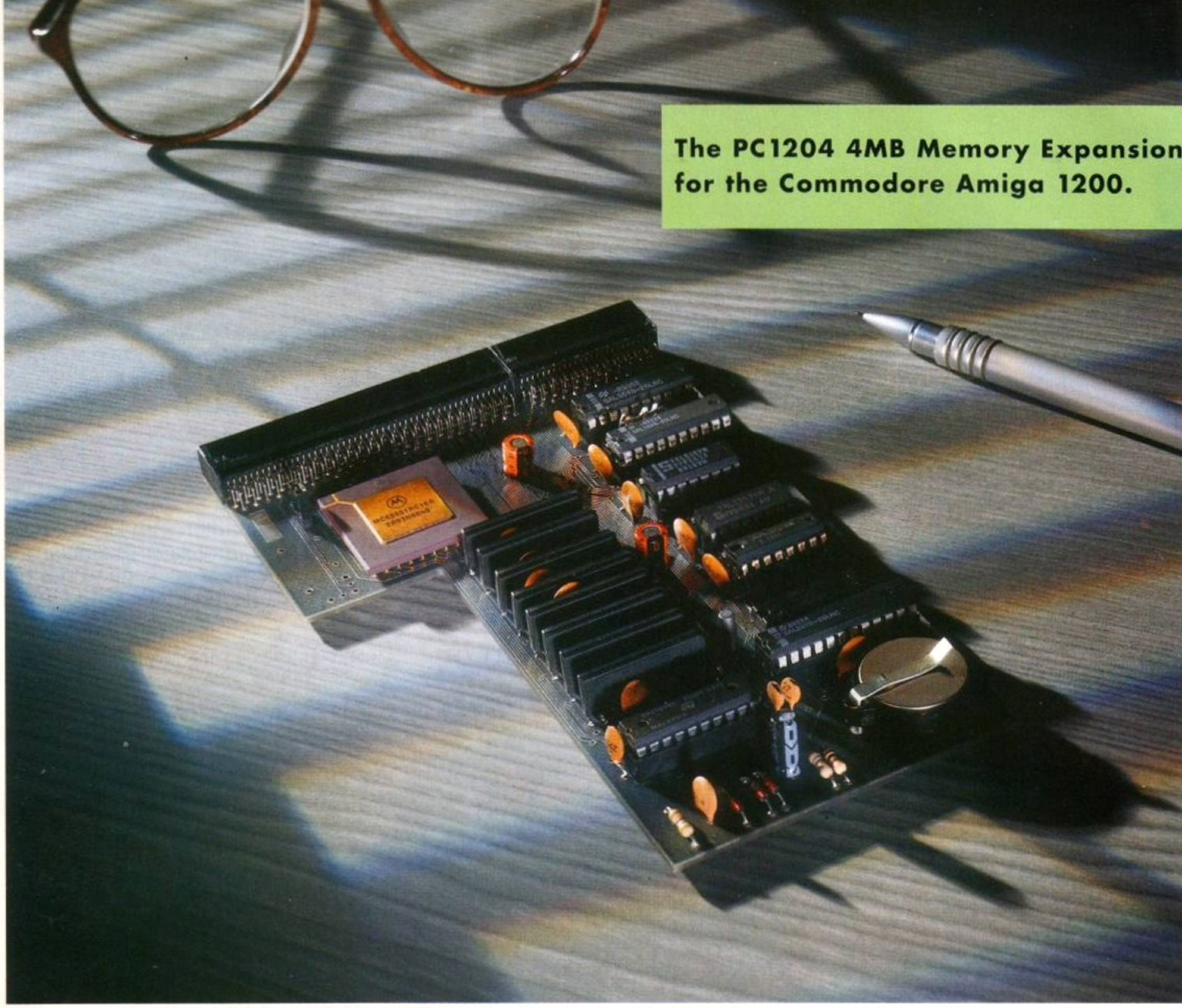
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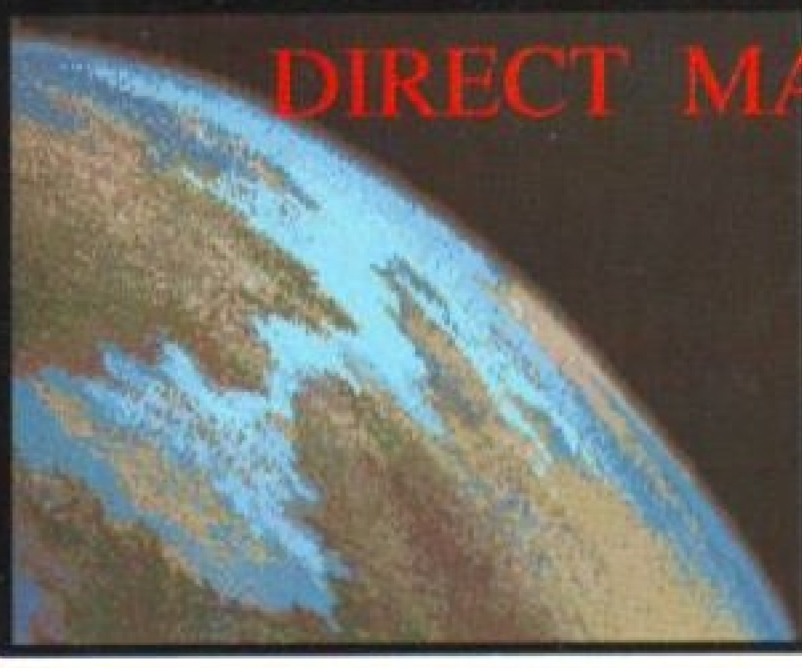


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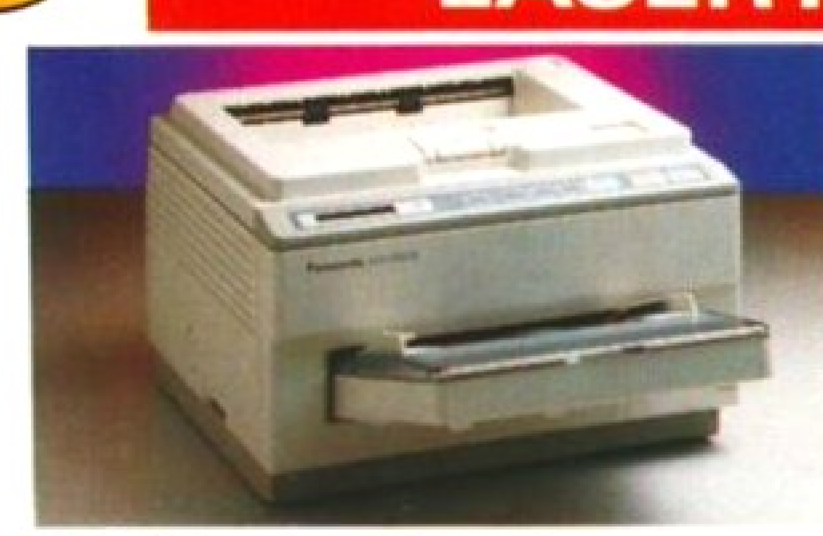


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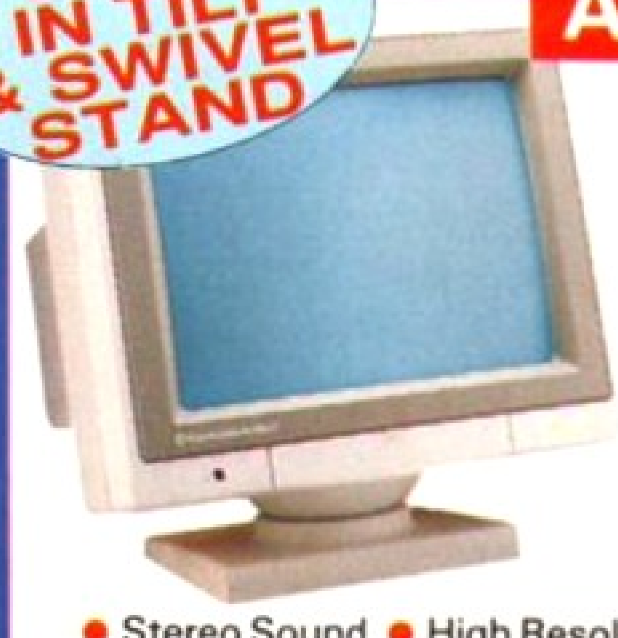


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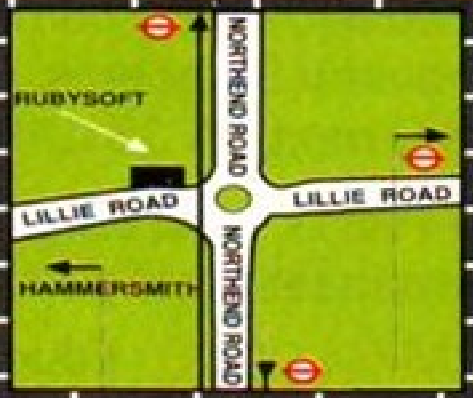
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Let's get 'serious'!

Or, why don't you stop blasting that alien, and go and do something more productive instead? **Richard Baguley** surveys the delights held for you in the pages ahead....

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We don't review anything 'on-site' and we won't review it if it isn't finished just so we can claim an 'exclusive'. If a product is let down by poor features, if it's difficult to use or if it's overpriced, we'll tell you. But on the other hand, if it's well worth the price, or does something amazing, we'll make you aware of the fact – and look out for the *Amiga Format* Gold award that distinguishes a truly excellent product, one that really stands out from the crowd.

How the Rating System Works

SPEED (marked out of 5) ●●●●●
Tremendously important for both hardware and software; there's nothing more annoying than waiting. A purely intuitive judgement.

DOCUMENTATION (out of 5) ●●●●●
Although there are some packages that are so simple that no manual is needed, complex items benefit hugely from a good explanation.

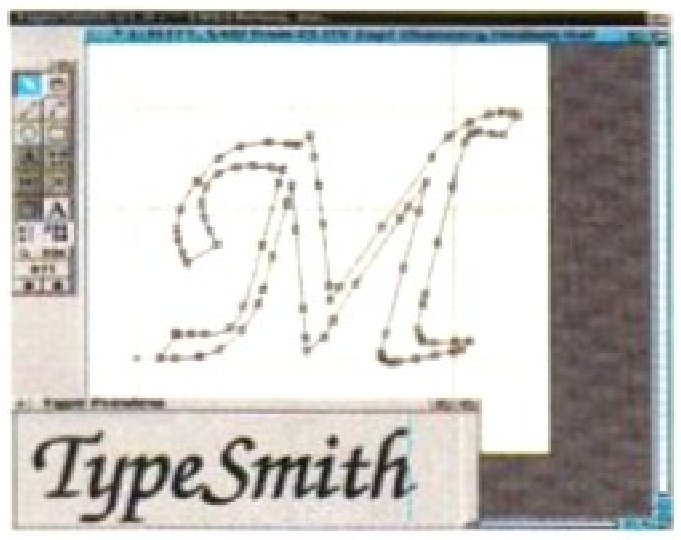
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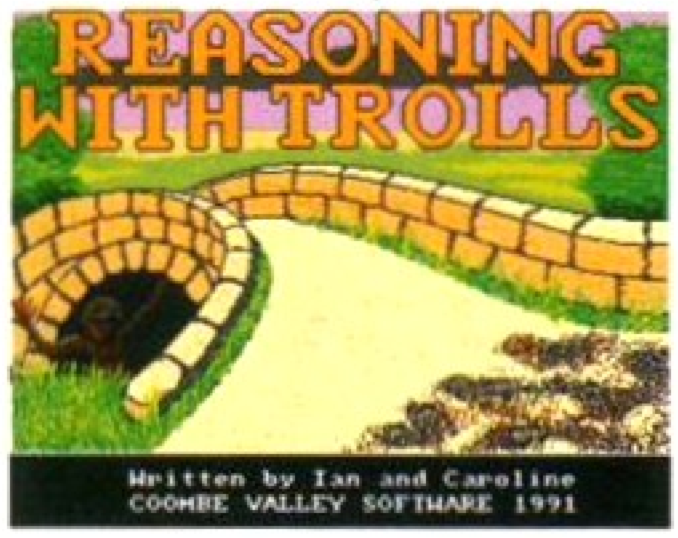
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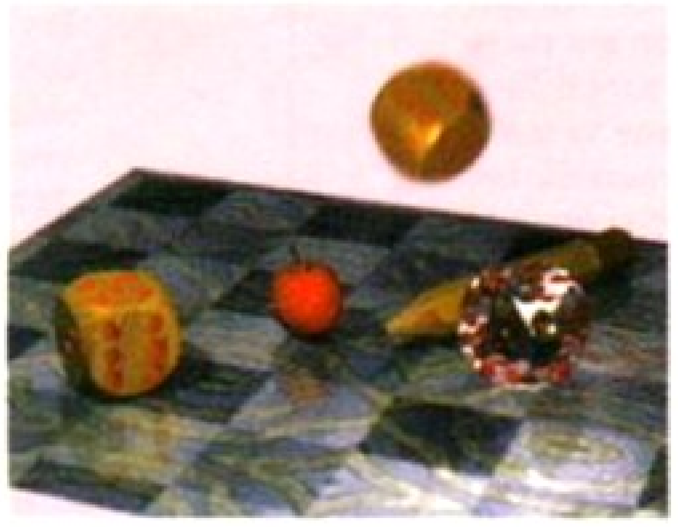
VALUE (out of 5) ●●●●●
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AMIGA FORMAT Verdict

The Verdict, our at-a-glance overall rating, is a percentage: it's based on sheer quality, but with price taken into account ,so that you know what kind of a deal you get.









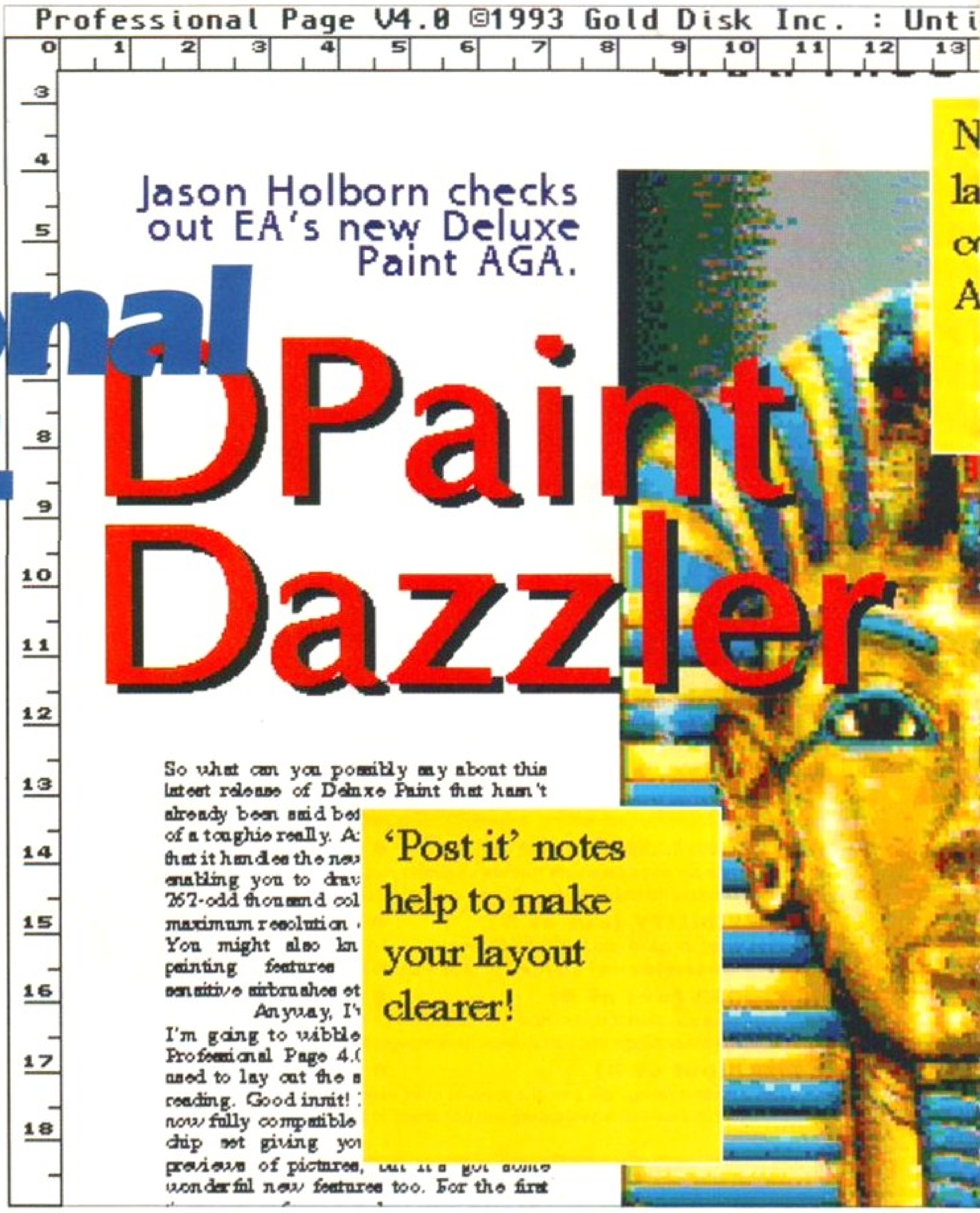




Gold Disk return to the DTP front line with an update that looks set to re-establish them as the industry's heavyweights. **Jason Holborn** goes to press using…

Professional Page 4

Desktop publishing ■ £199.95 ■ Gold Disk



Undoubtedly the best DTP program on the Amiga, it even rivals *QuarkExpress* on the Mac (the program this magazine is laid out with). An excellent new feature are these Post-it notes. They enable you to make notes to yourself, but when you come to print out the printer ignores them.

DESPITE GOLD DISK'S popularity among Amiga users, the release of Soft Logic's *PageStream 2.2* has given Gold Disk their first sniff of real competition. Although the previous release of *Professional Page* offered numerous new features, many reviewers suddenly started to realise that perhaps there was more to life than *ProPage*. Even Marcus Dyson, ***AF*** editor and DTP professional, had to conclude in his review of *PageStream 2.2* that "*ProPage* has finally met its match."

In an attempt to re-establish themselves as the leading developers of Amiga DTP software, Gold Disk have launched *Professional Page* version 4, possibly the program's most adventurous upgrade. Boasting many new features, including full support for the new AGA chip set, *ProPage 4* redefines the standards in Amiga DTP. Like the previous release, it requires some hefty hardware just to get started – unless you own an Amiga with a hard disk and at least 2Mb of memory, don't even think about buying *ProPage*.

The major addition to *ProPage 4* is its support for the AGA chip set's new 256-colour screen modes. You aren't restricted to the previous 640-by-512 pixel screen though – thanks to *ProPage*'s increased integration into the Amiga's systems software, *ProPage* can be run in any one of the complete range of 'Productivity' Amiga screen modes.

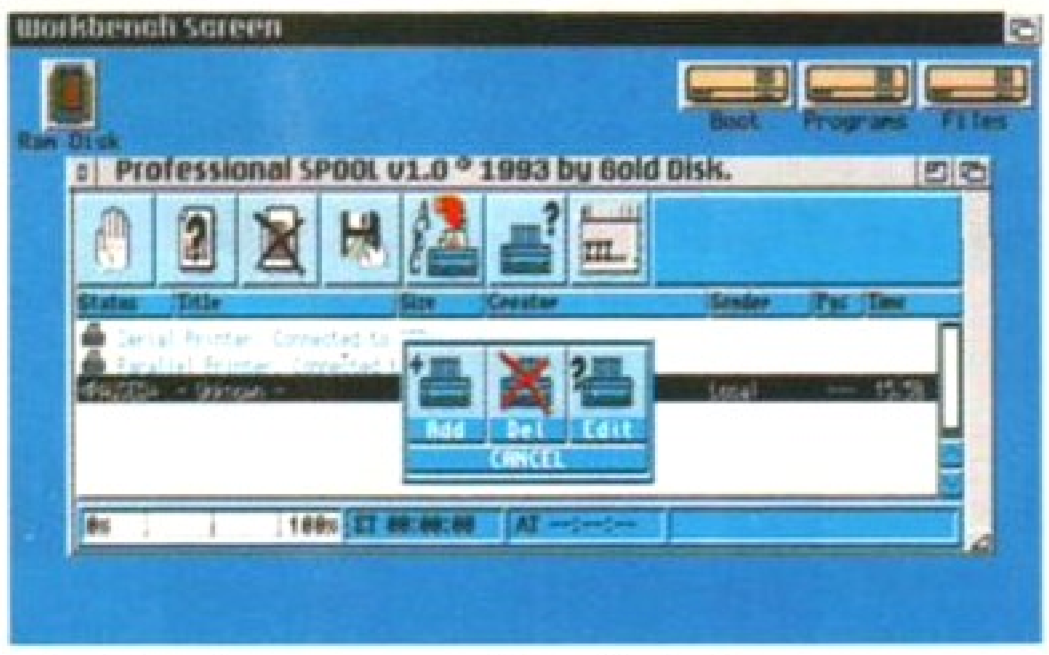
If you really need the resolution, you can even run *ProPage* in SuperHiRes mode, which is particularly impressive when used on an AGA-based Amiga. With 256 colours and a massive 1,280-by-512 resolution, the screen display makes even *QuarkXPress* on the Macintosh look somewhat sad!

Most of us at ***Amiga Format*** were expecting *ProPage*'s 256-colour modes to be slow – after all, with 8-bit planes of high resolution display to shift around, it would have been excusable if *ProPage* had slowed down. Surprisingly, running *ProPage* in 256-colour mode seems faster than running the previous 16-colour version on a standard Amiga. I don't know how Gold Disk have done it, but *ProPage 4* seems considerably faster than previous releases. Add to this its ability to display bitmapped graphics in full colour and it seems as if they've produced a DTP program that doesn't look like its running on a PC clone!

PROPAGE 4 is available from Silica on 081-309 1111

The improvements to *ProPage 4* aren't just cosmetic though. After AGA support, the most important improvement is *ProPage 4*'s ability to edit DPSs (Double Page Spreads). Up until now, this was the one aspect of *ProPage* that really stopped it from being a useful program for professionals. Although Gold Disk insisted that most professionals don't need to work on more than one page at a time, this isn't the case, and you'd be hard pushed to find a publication that didn't make extensive use of DPSs – this review is a perfect example.

PRINT DOCUMENTS AT YOUR LEISURE



Print those documents overnight with *ProPage*'s new *ProSpool* utility.

With version 4, there are two new utlities: the *Picture Editor* and *ProSpool* – a handy document printing utility that removes the need to boot *ProPage* every time you want to print. Written by Eyo Sama (the man behind Gold Disk's *Font Manager* conversion program), *ProSpool* enables you to print documents, plus, in true time-saving fashion, *ProSpool* can send documents to your printer, so you can print when you're elsewhere.

The *Picture Editor* is designed as an integral part of *ProPage*, so you can send any bitmapped image held within a picture box off for further editing. Offering the familiar *DPaint*-like user interface that everyone's come to expect from graphics editors. It's a no-nonsense, mini paint program that offers all the usual paint tools, including freehand draw, boxes, circles and airbrushes. Surprisingly, the graphics editor doesn't support the AGA chip set, so it's somewhat less useful when used on an AGA Amiga. For quick illustrations though, its presence can be a boon, saving you the hassle of having to load a program such as *DPaint*.



Now that *ProPage 4* can handle DPSs though, its potential has increased immeasurably. Even *PageStream* can't handle DPSs, so *ProPage* has not only matched the competition, but it has left it for dead.

There are also several new layout tools and extra 'niceties' that make *ProPage* a more enjoyable package to work with. The new font preview option is a welcome addition that enables you to see a quick preview of any font before committing yourself to it. Font support has been further extended with a new Kerning Pair adjustment facility that enables you to control and customise the kern settings for letter pairs in any of the Compugraphic fonts installed on your system. As more experienced Amiga DTP users will know, some characters don't fit together well ('A' and 'V', for example), so being able to edit the kern setting of pairs of characters produces neater text.

AGA support isn't the only new feature of *ProPage 4* that first saw the light of day in its little brother, *PageSetter 3*. *PageSetter*'s fill pattern facility is also supported. This means you can assign user-definable fill patterns (monochrome only, I'm afraid) to any text or structured object. I'm not sure about this feature – after all, monochrome fill patterns are nothing more than user definable half tones, so it would be better simply to assign a grey scale to an object or text and let your printer driver handle generating the fill pattern for you. Oh well, I'm sure someone will find a use for it!

One unique new feature is the new 'Stick on notes' (based on those Post-It Pads that are so popular these days). Simply by clicking on the 'notes' icon in the tools' icon strip, *ProPage* automatically creates a small yellow text box that can be positioned anywhere on screen. Once you've pasted it down by clicking the left mouse button, you can type text into it. Because stick-on notes are designed as reminders, *ProPage* ignores them when your document is output to the printer.

So, even if your document is covered in notes, only the layout itself is sent to press. Until recently, the only way to temporarily mark a section of a layout was to print a proof and write on that.

The Page Sorter function allows you to sort pages within a multiple-page document. For every page within a document, *ProPage* displays mini representations which can be picked up and arranged to your heart's content. Obviously you need plenty of memory to take full advantage of this facility.

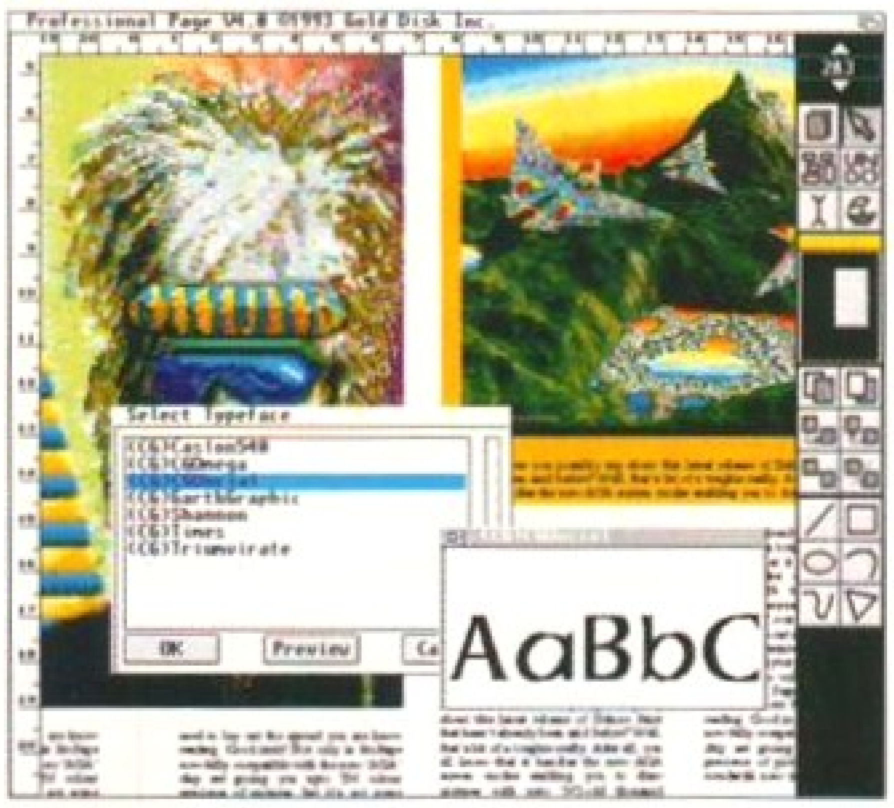
After all, Page Sorter is best suited to the task of handling entire brochures and booklets. If you tried holding an entire magazine in memory at once (especially if it contained 24-bit pictures), you'd end up with documents amounting to tens of megabytes in size (at least!). It would also have been nice if you could print the output from the *Page Sorter*.

ProPage 4 has broken the mould. With its support for the new AGA chip set and the new facility to edit DPSs, *ProPage 4* represents the most major advance in Amiga DTP software since the release of the original *ProPage* in 1987. To call it revolutionary would be putting it mildly! With its added power, it now demands to be compared with heavyweight packages that dominate the professional DTP market – run *ProPage 4* on an A4000 and you've got a DTP system that really is a viable competitor against established systems. Consider me impressed.

The all-new ProPage...

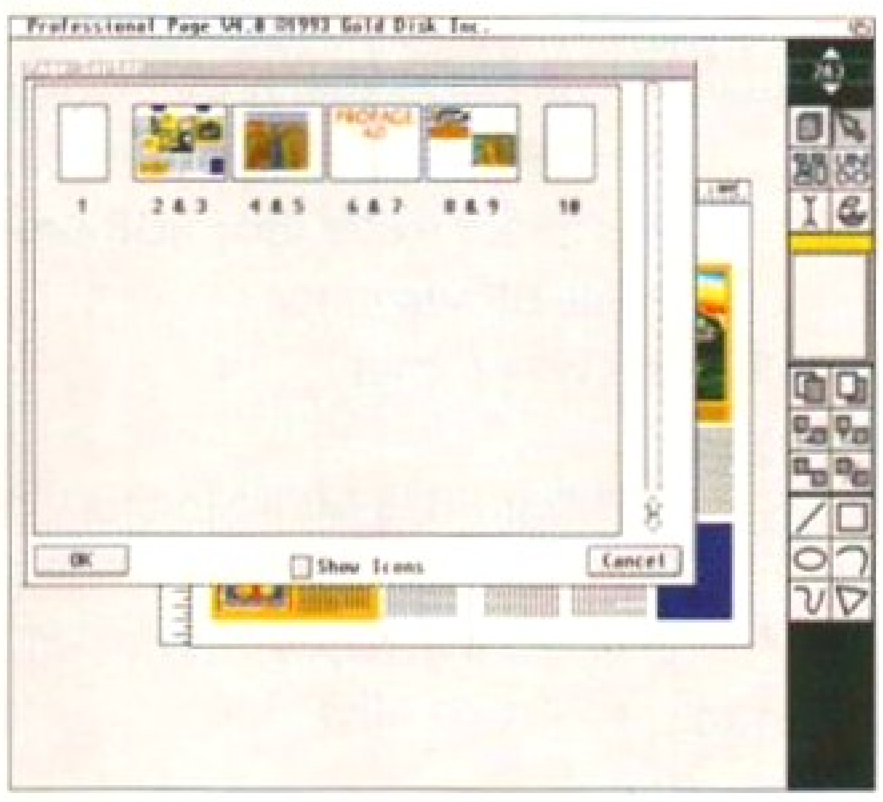
There have been considerable enhancements since the previous release, and here's a quick preview of a few of the new features you'll find on offer that now make *ProPage 4* – and the Amiga – more than the equal of the DTP big boys...

FONT PREVIEW



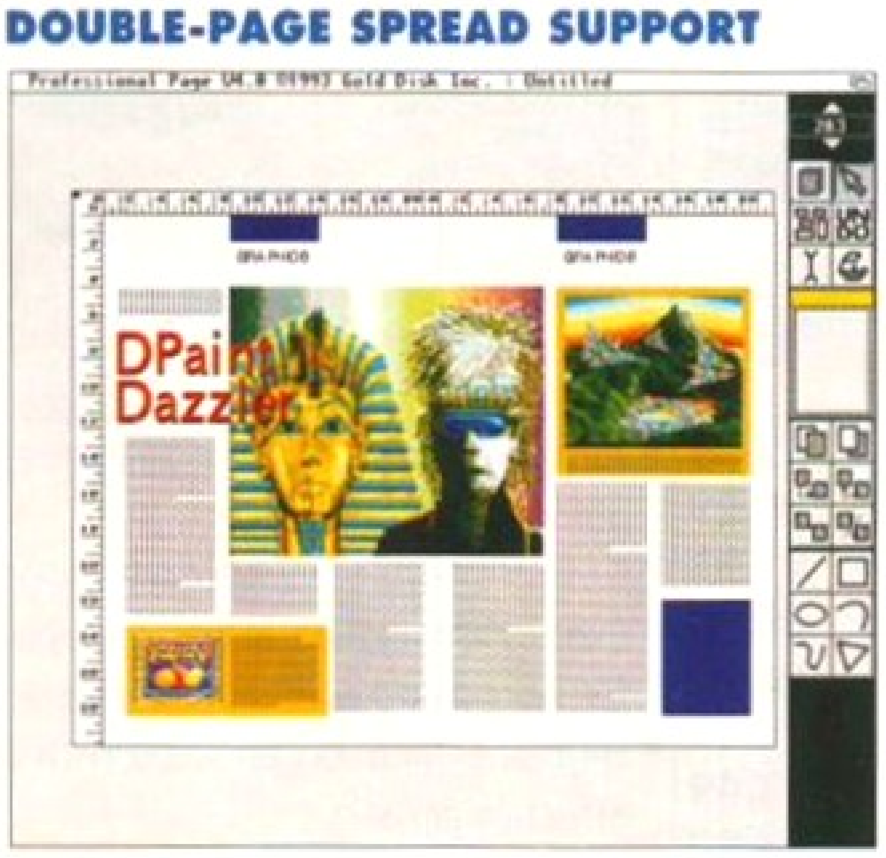
The painful thing about Compugraphic fonts is that they can be incredibly slow to redraw on an unacclerated Amiga, so *ProPage*'s new Font Preview facility is a welcome addition to the program. Font Preview enables you to view a given font – so you don't have to put all the text into that font before actually committing yourself to using it.

PAGE SORTER



***ProPage*'s new Page Sorter comes in real handy when you're working with documents containing more than one single page or a double page spread. What the Fage Sorter does is go through each page within the document and generate a mini representation (and icon) of the page that can be picked up and moved around, enabling you to arrange the pages within a document with ease.**

DOUBLE-PAGE SPREAD SUPPORT



Or facing pages as the *ProPage* documentation refers to them. After several years of users (including me!) screaming out for this feature, *ProPage 4* now enables you to edit a double-page spread. This means that you can run both illustrations and headlines across two pages – running over the gutter of the page. This is now a standard requirement in modern layout techniques, and you will find many examples in this issue of *Amiga Format* of how using pictures and headlines across a DPS can enhance design.

Professional Page 4

SPEED ●●●●
The original *ProPage* ran at an acceptable speed, but version 4 is considerably faster.

DOCUMENTATION ●●●●
Facing Pages aren't explained too well, but the rest is up to Gold Disk's usual standards.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●●
Using *ProPage*, laying out pages has never been so simple!

FEATURES ●●●●●
You still can't scale text horizontally, otherwise *ProPage 4* offers a huge array of features.

VALUE ●●●●●
£200 isn't bad value, and you can get it from dealers for a bargain £117.49!

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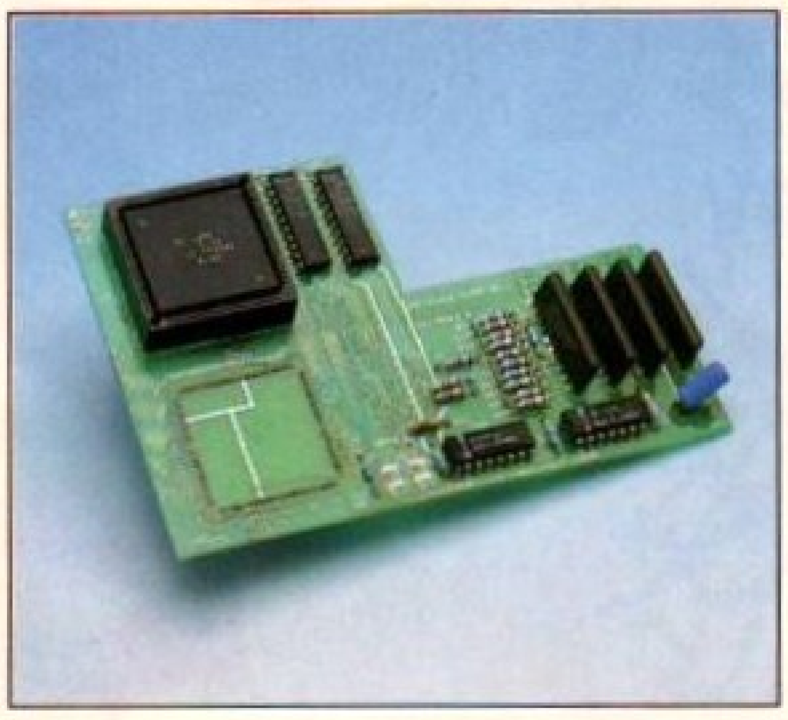
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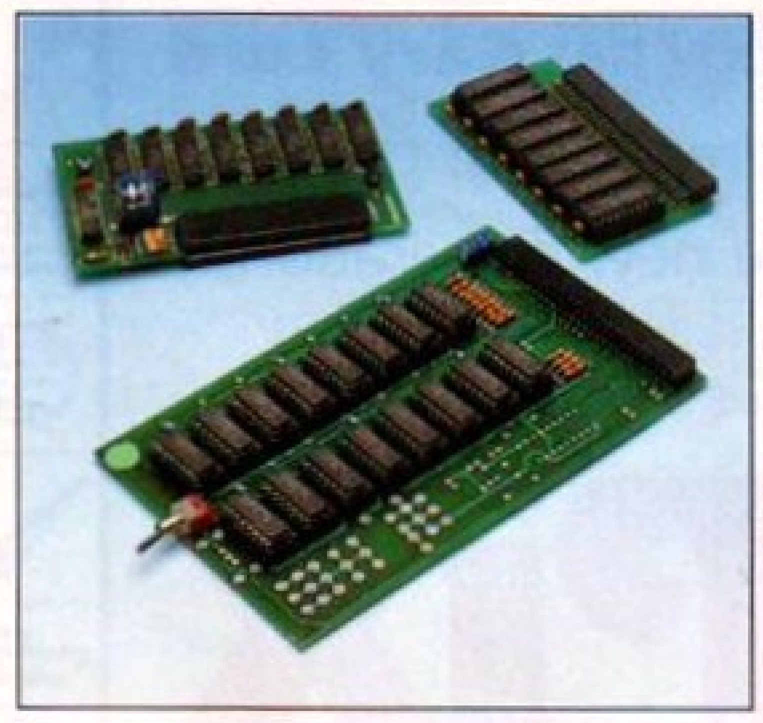
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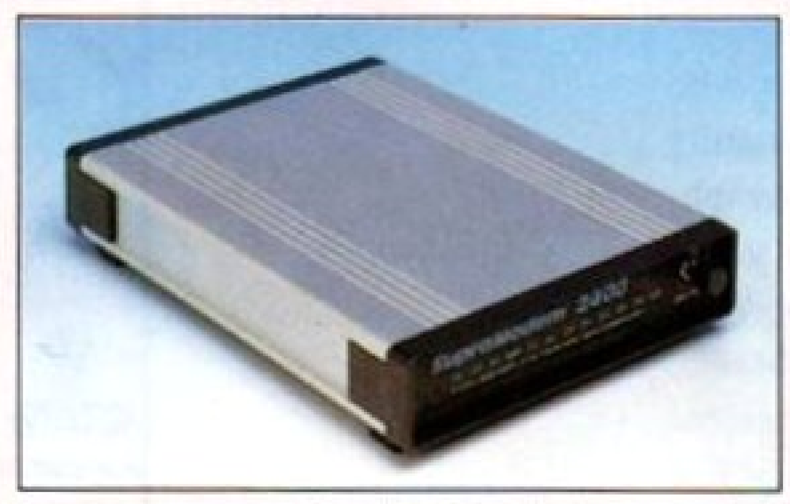
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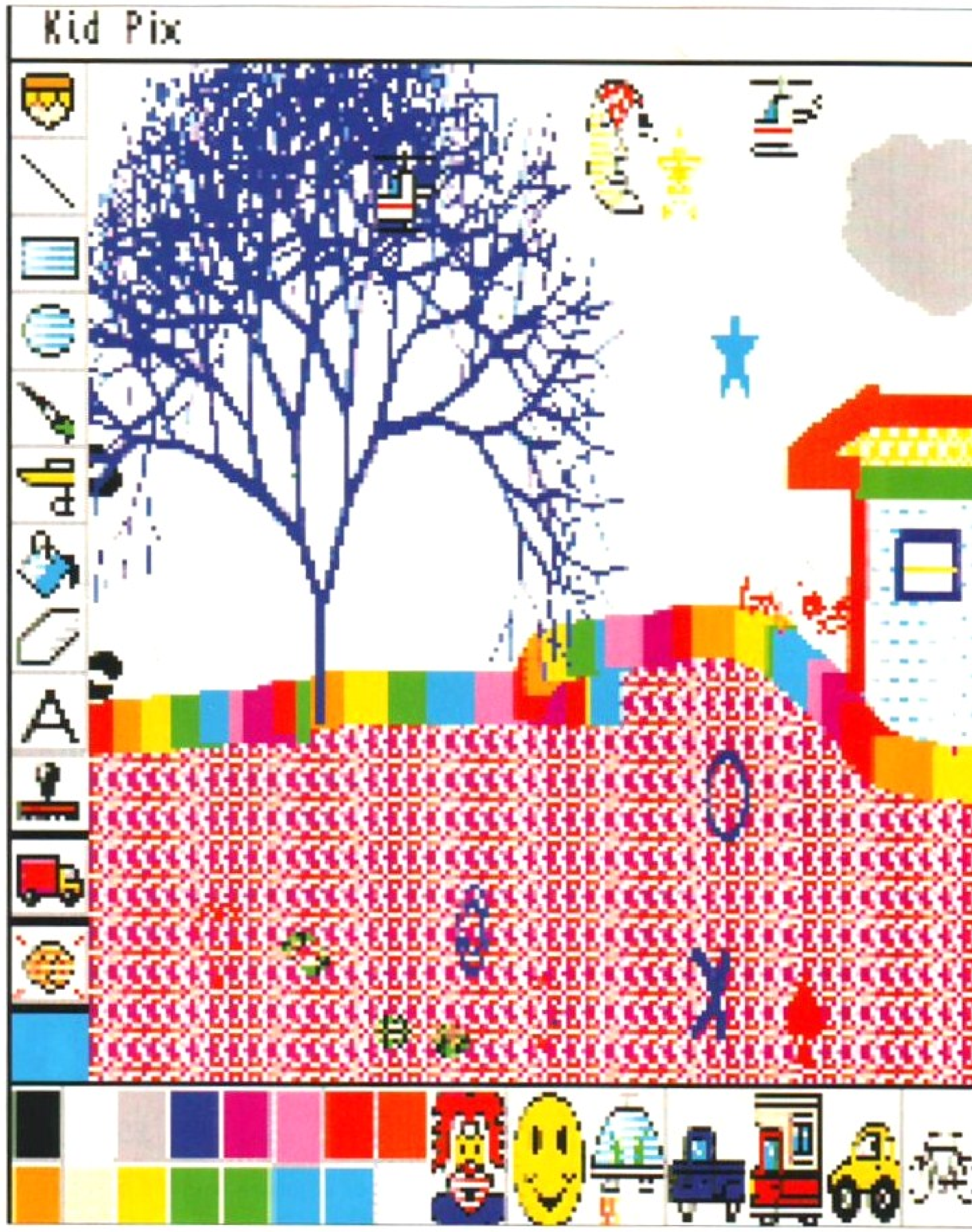
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Conventional paintbrushes are so passé, now kids want to draw their pix electronically, and boy has **Gary Lord** found a children's paint program for the new generation...



Kid Pix

Kids' paint package ■ £25.99 ■ Electronic Arts

ELECTRONIC ARTS ARE the people who bring you *Deluxe Paint*, that consistently ***Amiga Format***-Gold winning paint and graphics package that we continually refer to as *the* paint program to have for your Amiga. With the release of *Kid Pix* on the Amiga, though, EA have come across yet another phenomenal paint program, but this time it's for the kids – well sort of!

Kid Pix was created solely with kids in mind – it was designed by a dad, Craig Hickman, for his three-year-old son Ben. Apparently Ben used to play with 'adult' paint programs but ended up in tricky situations, so what was called for was a more kid-friendly application. And Craig has certainly managed to come up with that.

Once you've launched your copy of *Kid Pix* you are presented with a blank screen – and then you're all ready to start painting away. There are just three menus at the top of the screen: File, Edit and a special Goodies menu, but all of these menus can be turned off if you opt for 'Small Kids Mode' – which is more or less kid-proof.

Down the left-hand side of the screen are the tools with which to explore the program. As you click on each tool you are given various different options at the bottom of the screen, these change depending on which tool you click on. The interface is such fun to work with, kids will have no trouble becoming familiar with the way the program works, and although *Kid Pix* comes with a comprehensive manual, you really don't need it – you can just get straight in and play away to your heart's content, creating everything from fairly simple drawings, to quite intricate and stunning pieces of work – even if you're just five-years-old.

The first tool you're presented with is the Wacky Pencil (all of the tools have fun-looking icons that represent what the tool does). Click on the pencil and the options at the bottom include various line (or a thick circular brush) styles and widths. But it's when you first move the mouse across the screen to draw your first picture that you come across *Kid Pix*'s pièce de résistance: sound! Yes of course there have been other children's paint programs before, but none has managed to merge sound with vision as well as this.

Here we can only show you the visual side of *Kid Pix*, and only give you a mere taster of them too. But the program's strength lies in its superb sounds and samples!

It's a great laugh exploring what each tool and its various options do to the pictures on screen, and that alone will keep you amazed for hours. But *Kid Pix* adds another dimension, and you and your children will be eager to discover all the different noises and samples that are there to be uncovered. Everyone will have their own favourites, I love the stretching noise that the line-drawing tool makes, it matches the drawing move you're making so well, it sounds like a squeaky wooden door opening, as you stretch the line from one side of the screen to another.

KID PIX is available from Electronic Arts 0753 549442

CLIPPETY CLIP



If you don't think frogs should be green, then pop this wee fella into the Stamp Editor and pick a colour!

Clip art is ready-made art, and *Kid Pix* has gallons of it (look at the bottom menu of this picture – and that's just a small sample). This enables kids who haven't acquired proficient drawing skills yet to have a good play with real pictures – a bit like Fuzzy Felt when 'we' were young.

If you're not happy with the way the clip art looks, and you want to change the colour of a whale from purple to blue (the proper colour for whales as everyone knows) then just go to the Goodies menu and select 'Edit Stamp' and double click on the Stamp icon. You can rotate, flip and re-colour, or even create an entirely new stamp if you so desire. The main criticism of *Kid Pix*, and it would be great if Electronic Arts could rectify this, is that it can't load IFFs. Seeing as EA invented the darn things, it's a bit of a let down, because you can't import graphics from other Amiga packages, digitised pictures or creations from other paint programs. Apart from this criticism, *Kid Pix* will keep the young (and old) 'uns amused until the pigs, chickens, sheep and cows come home.

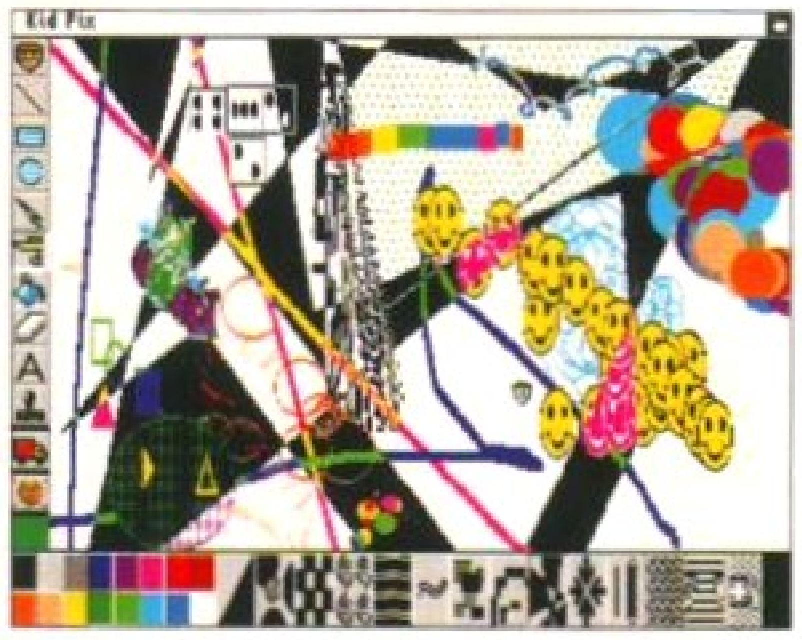


The graphics capabilities haven't been sacrificed for the sake of sound though. You'll find all that you'd expect from a children's paint package and then some! There's a more than adequate colour palette – 16 colours in total – and some wonderful (some would even say quite wacky in fact) painting options once you select the Wacky Brush!

My personal faves are the Zig Zag line – the pattern is similar to the blip-blip pattern that the machine that goes 'ping' makes; Echoes – circles within circles, very reminiscent of Spirograph sets; Trees – draws your very own fractal forest, and if you hold down Ctrl while you click the mouse button it draws a real mighty oak of a tree; Drippy Paint – while you draw, the 'paint' dribbles down the page; Connect-the-Dots – yes you can make your very own dot-to-dot picture, who needs paper eh?

The only drawback with the Wacky Brush tool, though, is that there are no sounds with it. The thing is it's probably the one you go to first and so you're initially disappointed – but once you go on to discover the noises in some of the other options, you don't feel at all cheated, but it's certainly something that could be considered for an update.

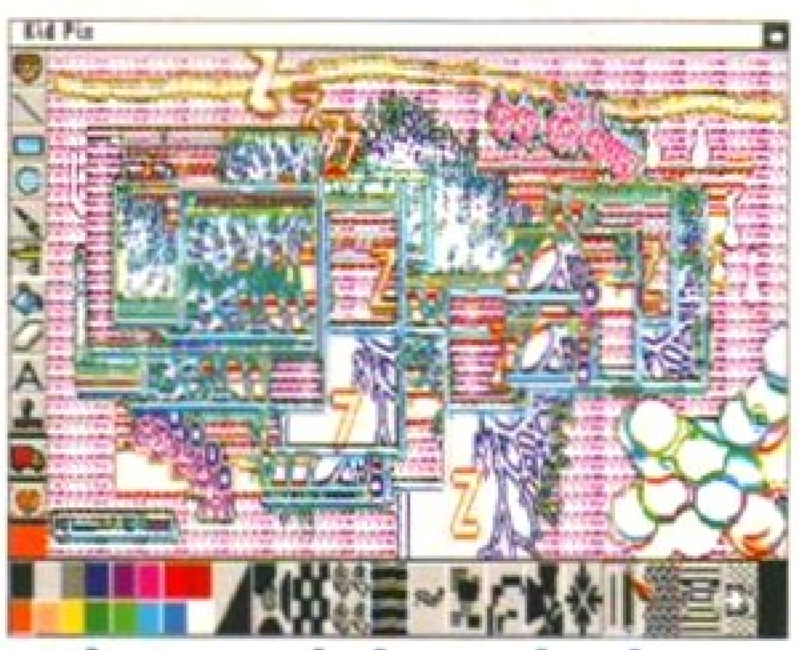
And here's one that I made earlier...



One of the best graphics features of *Kid Pix* is the Electric Mixer. This picture has been splattered and affected with some clip art, and the Wacky Pencil and Brush. Then the Broken Glass feature has been clicked on, and has shattered the screen display. Check out the smiley faces, as the display has shattered, it has inversed the colours – a similar effect can be achieved if you click on Night and Day.



If you've just been messing around, and you want to erase your work, just click on one of the erasers, this one is the Firecracker – it blows your picture right off the screen. You can also choose Fade Away; Drop Out – bits of the picture just drop out until there's nowt left; Count Down – you get a Thunderbirds-style count before your picture slides off the screen; White Circles – which gobble up your drawing!



See the letter 'Z' in this drawing? Well the whole alphabet has an accompanying soundtrack – in a real *Sesame Street*-style. And, although it's American, it does say "zed" and not "zee"! The best spoken sample has to be the one for the question mark though... it's a cute kid just saying "Huh?" – well cool!



This started off as a Stu-stu-stu-stu-stu-studio Line drawing by Mondrian, but *Kid Pix* sculpts your drawing any way you like it! Checker Board literally turns your drawings into checkered patterns. But it doesn't stop there, the Wallpaper effect then divides the picture into four, and if you click on it again, it divides it into eight! You can go even further in the manipulation department, if you're not happy then use the Splash, Venetian Blinds, Highlighter or Pattern Maker effects, let the artistic spirit run free!

Once a drawing has been created with any of the drawing tools, and you fancy spicing it up a bit, then it's time to have a go with the Electric Mixer tool. It's so-named because it will simply mix up your picture in some wacky, weird and even abstract ways. Kids will reap hours of enjoyment trying out all the options available to them. At the same time they will discover more and more about the program, and new ways to manipulate their drawings – I certainly have! (just have a look at the column on the left to see the effects that can be achieved in seconds).

So when a drawing's finished what then? Well if your kids are happy with their artistic endeavours they can save their pictures to disk and print them out for posterity. It's all very easy and what you see on screen is what prints out on paper. Obviously a colour printer is preferable, but mono printouts can look pretty good too, the ones in the manual are black-and-white and they look great – though try explaining that to your nagging eight-year-old.

If your budding computer graphic protégés aren't happy with their drawings then they can simply erase using the 'Erase' tool. Remember what a tedious task rubbing out your drawing was when you were young? Well the present generation won't find this to be the case with *Kid Pix* – because there are even options for erasing pictures. Firecracker is the most impressive because your screen explodes in Pop Art-style with accompanying sound; or you can go for the Hidden Pictures eraser, it rubs out the drawing but displays, albeit briefly, some of the program's hidden secrets.

Electronic Arts say of their latest paint package that "No one's too young, no one's too old," and that's certainly true, everyone in the ***Amiga Format*** office has been huddled around the screen, just wanting another quick play! It's definitely a great entry-level paint package whatever your age. It may even be better suited for an Amiga bundle than *Deluxe Paint* is. And what better way to get your young ones interested in the Amiga? If they learn how to use a mouse, recognise icons, print out their drawings and get an artistic slant before they even get to school age that has got to be 'A Good Thing' hasn't it?

Kid Pix

SPEED ●●●●
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DOCUMENTATION ●●●●
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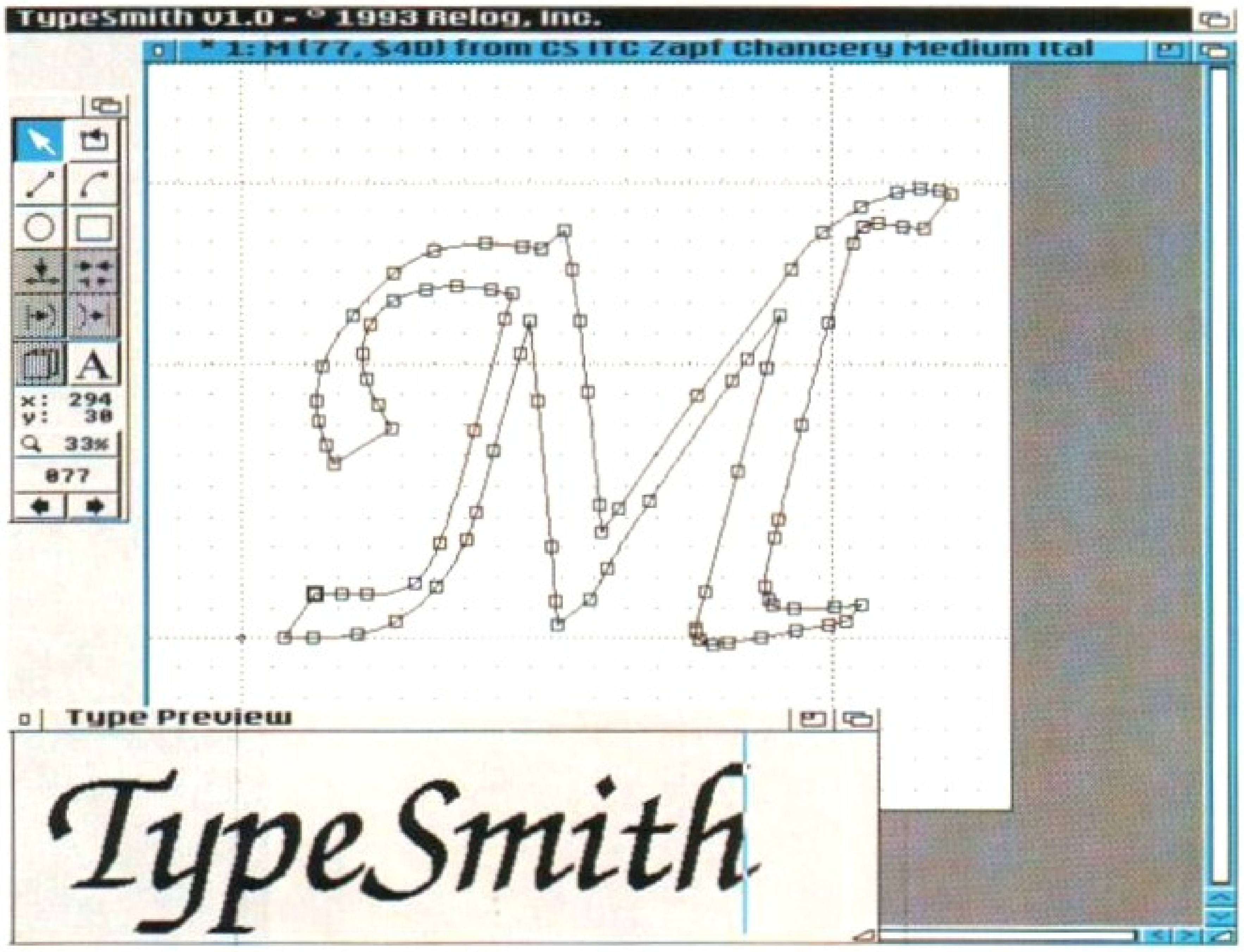
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Font characters are constructed using points, lines and bezier curves, in much the same way as a structured drawing.

Designing your own outline fonts is an interesting prospect. **Jason Holborn** enjoys a character-forming experience with Soft-Logik's new font designer.

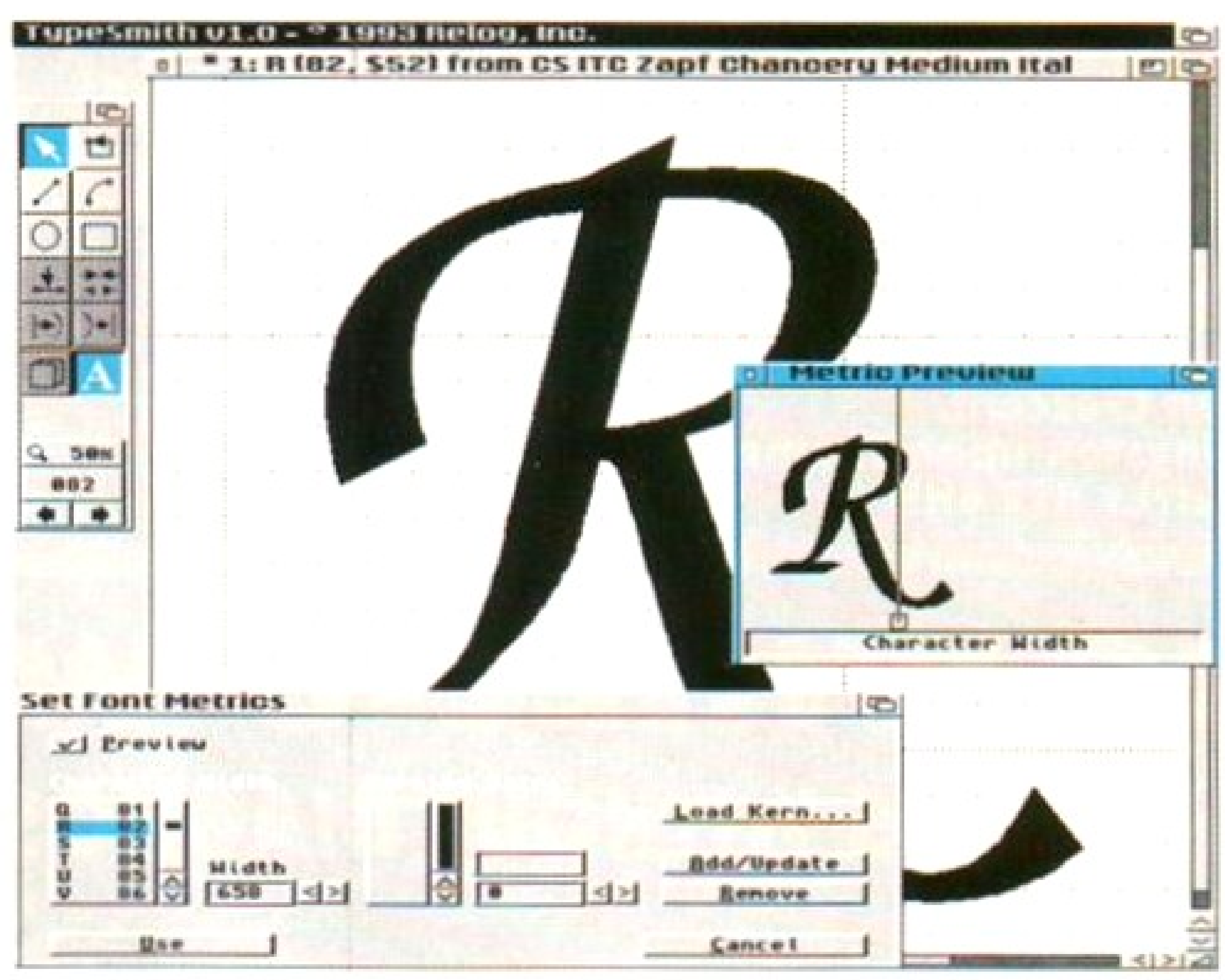
TypeSmith

Outline font designer ■ £129.95 ■ Soft-Logik

FONT DESIGN PROGRAMS are nothing new to the Amiga, but the release of Workbench 2 and desktop publishing programs such as *PageStream* have made the Amiga bitmapped font somewhat redundant. These days users expect the best possible quality from their DTP documents. Due to this need for 'jaggie free' results, the demand for 'outline' fonts has increased so much that it was inevitable that someone would come up with a font editor for outline fonts.

Soft-Logik's new *TypeSmith* is a powerful font editor designed specifically for outline fonts. Although heavily geared towards its own desktop publishing program, it is possibly the most complete font-related package ever released for the Amiga. Not only can it be used to load, edit and even create outline fonts for use within *PageStream*, but it will happily load and save fonts in Adobe Type 1, Type 3 and – best of all – AGFA Compugraphic Intellifont format. *TypeSmith* is compatible with the Intellifont formats used by Gold Disk's *ProPage*, *PageSetter*, *ProDraw 3* and even Workbench versions 2 and 3. In fact its font-conversion capabilities are so extensive that they make Gold Disk's 'Font Manager' look rather sad!

Using *TypeSmith* purely as a font conversion tool would be doing it no justice at all though. Its real power comes from its ability to edit and create new typefaces using a selection of tools that wouldn't look out of place in a structured drawing program. Indeed by the very nature of outline fonts, the program is very similar to a structured-drawing program. Each and every character within a font must be created separately using a combination of points, lines and bezier curves. Don't let this put you off though – if you know how to draw an outline using *DPaint*'s 'Line' and 'Curve' tools, you've already mastered the basic skills required to create your own font.



Offers comprehensive control over the width and kern settings of individual characters.

Creating an outline font is surprisingly simple. Before you can start designing individual characters, though, you need to feed in a number of important details about your font including its name, style, weight and font ID number. You then need to create a 'metric' file that will keep track of the font's kerning information (how characters fit together) and dimensions. This sort of low-level font control is one aspect that really makes the program shine – if you're used to the sort of limited control that bitmapped font editors offer (the Workbench *Fed*, for example), the power of *TypeSmith* is going to come as something of a shock to you!

One inspired feature is its 'template' facility that allows you to manually trace an outline font from a bitmapped font. You really do need Workbench 2 or 3 to get the very best from this facility though, simply because it needs to be able to scale the bitmapped font to a more usable size (this isn't available under Workbench 1.3). It would also have been better to have had some form of auto-trace facility (similar to *Art Expression*'s BME Trace utility) for tracing bitmapped fonts. Although admittedly you would still have had to clean up the font, this would still have offered a huge time saving. Ah well, let's just hope that Soft-Logik are reading this...

Once you've designed your font, a quick click on the 'Font Preview' option is all that is needed to test the font. This is by far one of the most useful features offered because it allows you to test the kern and width settings of your font. If characters don't fit together properly, you can change their width and kerning within seconds.

It's nice to see that Soft-Logik are keeping up with developments in the Amiga's operating system too – *TypeSmith* is fully AGA compatible and can even be set up to run in a other languages thanks to Workbench 2.1/3.0's 'Locale' feature. Where interface design is concerned, Soft-Logik are really on the ball!

Judging a product such as this is very difficult, simply because it's the first program of its type on the Amiga. I have no doubt that competitors will eventually appear, but they're going to have to be damned special to top this one. It's well designed, easy to use and offers the sort of extensive list of features that virtually spoil its users. With products such as *PageStream 2.2*, *Art Expression* and *TypeSmith* under their belt, Soft-Logik really are shaping up into a very major player within the Amiga marketplace. For DTP users everywhere, it's a must.

TYPESMITH is available from Silica Systems on 081-309 1111

TypeSmith

SPEED ●●●●
Soft-Logik recommend an accelerated Amiga, but it is rapid even on an A600.

DOCUMENTATION ●●●●●
The manual covers every aspect of the program and font technology in great detail.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●
Makes what is usually a complicated subject moreorless child's play!

FEATURES ●●●●●
Whether you need to convert fonts or create your own, no other package even comes close.

VALUE ●●●
£130 is a lot of money to pay for a font designer, but if you buy cheap you buy twice!

AMIGA FORMAT Verdict **88%**

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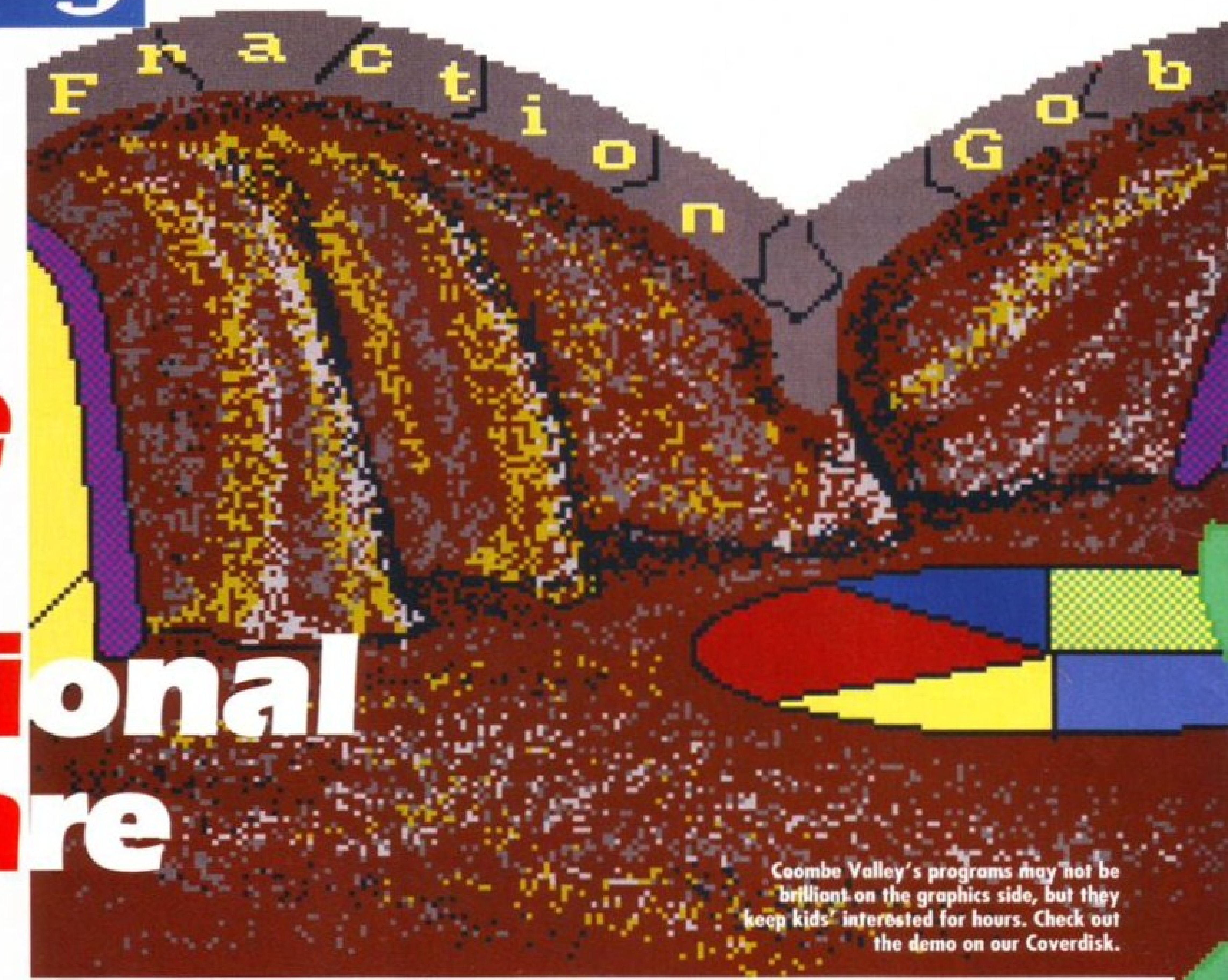
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AF05

Patricia Winstanley puts her kids to work on some excellent text and graphics-based games that teach the three 'Rs', and keeps their interest as well…

Coombe Valley educational software



Coombe Valley's programs may not be brilliant on the graphics side, but they keep kids' interested for hours. Check out the demo on our Coverdisk.

Educational ■ £14.99 each
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THE LAST FEW years have seen a trend towards cute characters and arcade-style action in educational programs. This is a great shame because so much educational value is being lost in the search for user-friendly (or more to the point, supposedly child friendly) attraction. The trouble is the term 'child friendly' is being defined by adults (who often don't have kids themselves) rather than kids. Of course, if you put a console in front of kids and load a copy of *Zool* or *James Pond* the kids will play them, but they do get pretty bored once they've cracked the game. And have you noticed any improvement in their academic work as a result of knowing the steps that have to be taken to beat the end-of-level baddie?

Go to any primary school today and watch the kids on the computer. The chances are they will be grappling with some sort of text-based program, be it a database or a game. The schools have it right here. Most kids prefer the challenge of dealing with real reading and writing, while still having fun with the mathematical challenges.

PICTURE FRACTIONS (7-10)

This one is intended for kids who still need to be able to see graphic representation of fractions rather than numerical problems. For instance it might show a picture of 10 differently coloured cakes and ask what fraction of them are green. It also points out when the child answers something like 'five tenths' that the result could be reduced and expressed as 'one half'.

The basis of this game is to find the pieces of a puzzle and collect them all one at a time. There are an awful lot of questions around to remove the child's hard-earned gains en route.

Verdict 85%



This one is for the younger child, and it presents fractions in terms of cake!

FRACTION GOBLINS (8-13 plus)

If your children are any good at fractions, and I certainly was never any good at them myself, then do not attempt to play this game with them! At least not if you value your own sanity and authority over them – my kids left me way behind!

The task is to find the scattered contents of your pencil-case, and heaven help you if you meet a rather large, unfriendly goblin along the way. Do you know what the answer to one and seven twelfths minus one tenth is? Neither do I. It's a great game though, and you can try it out because there's a demo on this month's Coverdisk.

Verdict 85%



Aimed at the older child, it deals with fractions and poses taxing high level questions.

CAVE MAZE (8-13)

I was somewhat disappointed with this game. Having played and enjoyed it on the Atari ST, I've found the Amiga version full of rather sloppy programming, which is a shame because there really is an excellent game underneath.

The basic story is that you meet a young, hungry, wee dragon who has carelessly gone and lost his lunchbox and needs you to guide him home back to his cave. In order to do so you need to collect objects and give them to the correct guardians of passage. Adults will enjoy the humour and puns, but kids might be left out in the cold.

Verdict 79%



A traditional adventure game, will work the logic processes of the late primary or early junior child.



One of the most popular formats for educational games in schools is the text or text/graphics adventure. Even the hardened joystick jockey enjoys having to think and work a bit sometimes – like the refreshing change between playing Scrabble and Ludo!

Coombe Valley Software are headed by a teacher and it shows. My own (mid-junior) kids have access to a wide range of educational software at home, covering all styles. Yet the game they keep coming back to is *Maths Dragons*. Why? Because they positively enjoy the challenge of combining the three 'Rs'.

The text/graphic adventure format has been buried over the past few years in favour of more visual adventure games. Yet it offers an ideal vehicle for presenting all sorts of educational challenges at the same time as giving practice in reading, writing and spelling. It doesn't matter what the subject of the game is, be it geography, science, maths or history, the child still needs to be able to read, write, and more importantly spell in order to understand instructions given, and instruct the computer back in return.

For those new to computers who have never seen a text or text/graphics game, this is how they work. Imagine you have been dumped somewhere unfamiliar with a portable phone/modem and keyboard. Someone on the other end of the phone can see what you are doing and where you are. They can tell you about your surroundings and can point out which directions to take to move out of your present location.

So they might say something like...

"You are in a clearing in a forest. Try walking towards the oak tree. A rope is dangling, so climb the tree to investigate. There are possible exits east, south and north."

You type something like 'climb tree'. Then your new location is described...

"Nestling in a hollow of the branches is a small box with a golden lock. It might be possible to open if you can find the key. "

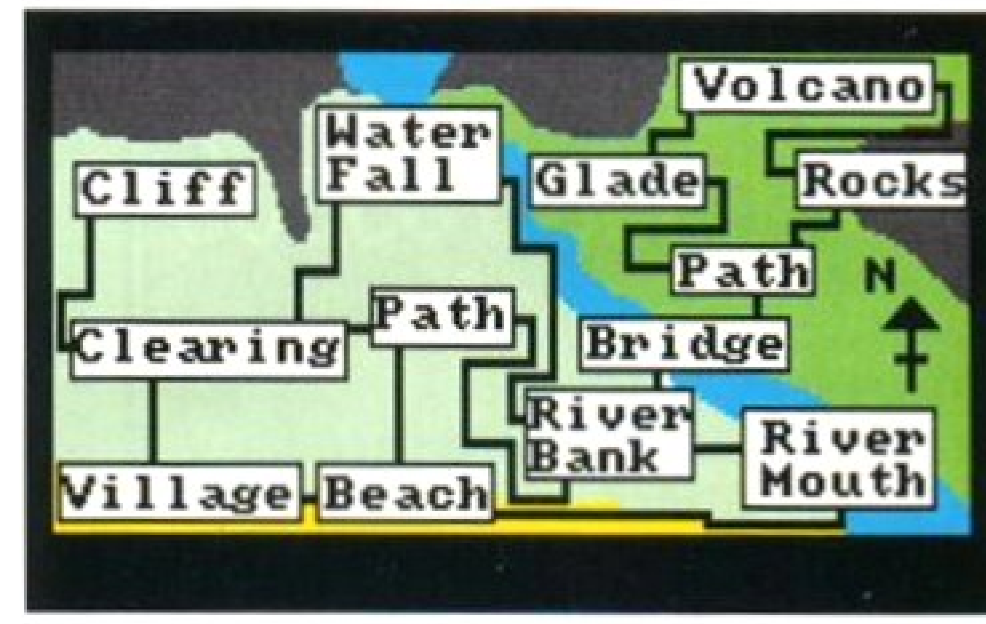
You then have to find the key to find the next exit. The Coombe Valley games work in this way, so while playing them kids have to read instructions and descriptions, and then type in commands to progress. The



Aaaaargh! The adult dragon insists you answer a question correctly before proceeding.

beauty of typing in the replies is that they don't realise they're learning keyboard skills at the same time as playing the games.

Although younger kids need a good deal of help in these games, older ones tell you to "get lost" if you try to help. Most of the games have user-selectable difficulty levels so they can be adjusted to the skills of the player. Try some of these games – they're inexpensive and excellent value, and aid reading, writing, spelling, maths, logic and social skills!



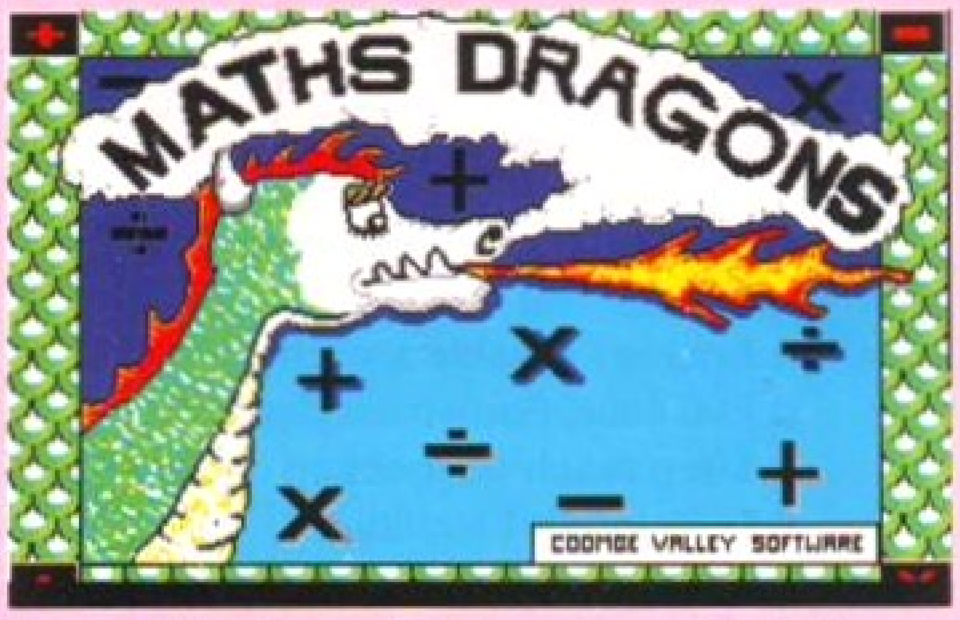
One of the mazes that has to be fathomed in Coombe Valley's *Cave Maze*.

MATHS DRAGONS (5-12)

You have gone to visit your young dragon friends. Unfortunately the train set that you took with you has been found dismantled, and the pieces are scattered all across the cave complex by baby dragons. Your task is to try and collect all the train's pieces and rebuild the set.

Trouble is, the adult dragons in the complex are very keen on making sure that academic standards are kept up. If they come across you they will ask you questions on arithmetic, and if you get the answer wrong it will relieve you of your treasures and make you find them all over again.

AMIGA FORMAT GOLD 94%



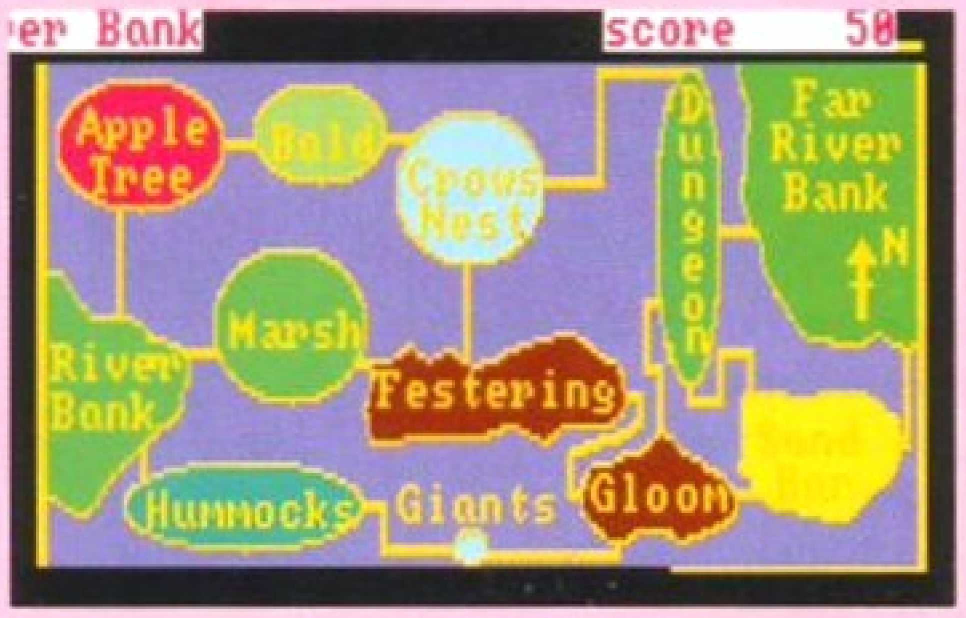
Simple arithmetic – and typing answers is helped by the child being able to copy spellings from the screen.

REASONING WITH TROLLS (5-12)

If your kids like puns then this is for them. It's based on the story of the Billy Goats Gruff, but instead of one bridge to cross there are lots of them, each with a different troll.

Each troll needs an object to let you past, the specific object identifiable by a pun on the troll's name. If you don't have the object, or don't know what to offer you are instead presented with a logic problem to solve. The problems are varied and interesting – the sort of questions seen in intelligence tests, and it gives kids a good opportunity to learn problem-solving techniques.

AMIGA FORMAT GOLD 91%



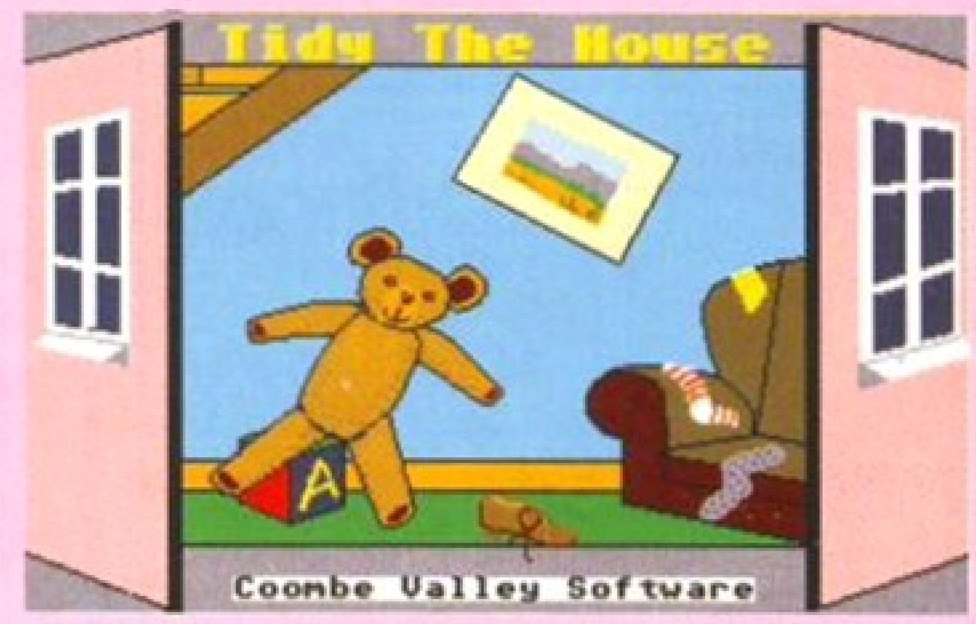
Based on the traditional Billy Goats story, it has some decent puns to get the adults going too!

TIDY THE HOUSE (5-9)

Popular this one. For the first-time adventurer this game offers a useful introduction. As you may have guessed the game's set in a house, and the player has to find their younger siblings' clothes, and dress them for the park, while also tidying up and putting away scattered toys.

While this game is indeed enjoyable, my testers found it terribly frustrating to map because doors didn't always lead back to precisely where they came from. This is the only drawback, though, in what is an otherwise excellent game. But will it encourage kids to keep their rooms tidy?

Verdict 80%



Ah Mum, do we have to? Make the kids tidy up the toys and acquire a sense of responsibility.

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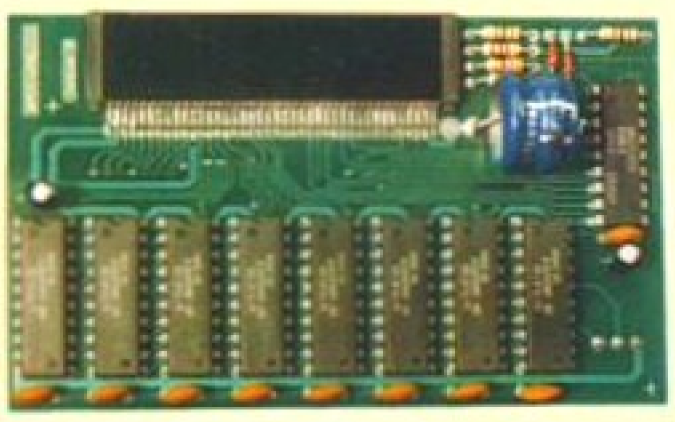
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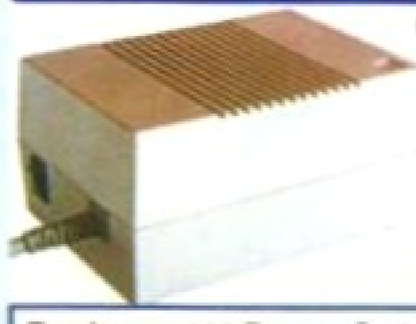
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Brian Larkman finds Real 3D now has added realism, especially around the 'blurry bits'. He tries out the soft shadows and motion blur in...

Real3D version 2

3D modelling and Rendering ■ £400

RealSoft/Activa

IT IS AN irony of computer graphics that however much detail and precision you put into a model (an object in a 3D picture), it is still the 'blurry bits' that give it that realistic look. Look around you, as well as the fine detail objects' edges have, almost every shadow also has a soft edge. Similarly, only the objects that you are actually focussed on are sharp, those further away or closer, or on the periphery of vision, are blurred. When things start to move, the blur becomes much more pronounced – though we rarely notice it.

To create a 'real' view of the world, this blurred effect needs to be simulated. The latest version of *Real 3D* can now claim to live up to its name because it provides all these 'blurry' features and much more, without losing the underlying character of the system.

There are so many new features in this second version that here we can only give you a flavour of the changes, concentrating first on the interface and working methods, then on the end product – the images, and what makes them so different.



An excellent impression of motion has been created in this image by the use of variable motion blur being applied to the different Bowling Pins and the Bowling Ball. This is a reworking of a classic of 3D computer graphics, the original was created on Pixar's Renderman system. The Amiga is fast catching up with professional graphics workstations, which cost much more money, and software like *Real 3D 2* is helping to close the gap.

The unique thing about the new interface is that it can be stylised to your personal taste. Three sorts of standard, resizable, floating Amiga window are provided: View, Tool and Select. View windows are of the working space within which objects are modelled, lit and rendered. Tool windows can contain groups of tools according to need.

Select windows provide a hierarchical list of objects, effects and materials. These are all familiar to users of earlier versions. The difference is that as many, or as few of each of these types can be opened, customised and positioned as you need them, making the new *Real* almost as versatile as Lego.

Why it's so versatile is that two or three Tool windows can be opened, each with a different set of tools – perhaps Visibles in one, Lights in another, and Freeform tools in a third. Nine tool sets are provided which can be combined mix 'n' match style and supplemented with custom tools of your own design based on a macro or the Real Programing Language (RPL) provided with the system.

REAL 3D version 2 is available from Alternative Image 0533 440041

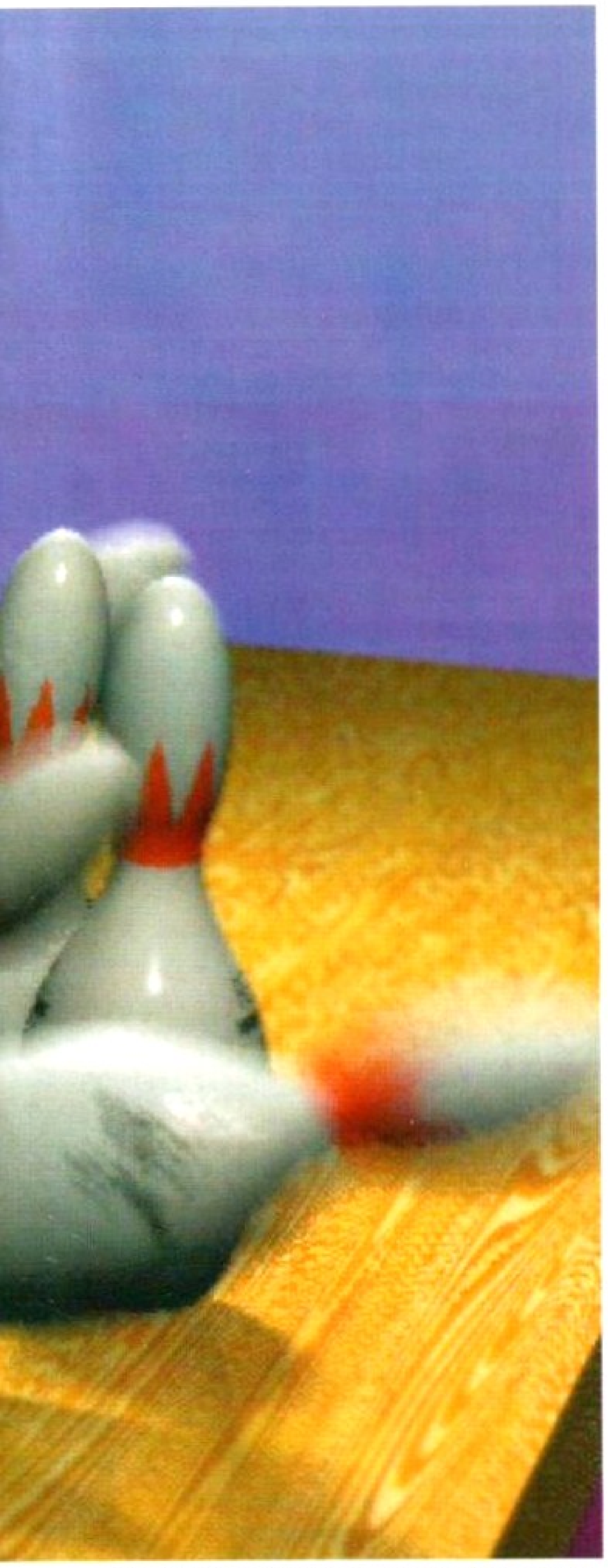
Even the Select window can be opened several times displaying different parts of the hierarchy, allowing sections to be compared, modified or cut and pasted.

It is the View windows that are the most remarkable though. Initially the regular Front, Side and Plan views can be set up easily making the traditional tri-view interface. Any of these views can be flipped to any other regular X,Y, or Z viewpoint or rotated to a custom perspective view, so for many jobs a single-view window is enough.

Alternatively six or even nine views can be provided at any size, viewing any part of the model at any degree of zoom, like surveillance cameras in a superstore. Rotating the viewpoint is similar to the control system of the wire-frame module in earlier versions of *Real3D*, but it has been combined with the old Editor module in each of the new View windows. Any View window can also be rendered at any available resolution or render type – Outline, Lampless, Shadowless, Normal – so the old Solid 'rendering' module has been combined as well. This remarkable integrated interface has one more surprise in store – Asynchronous action. In other words each window can operate separately and multitask, allowing one view window to render an image while another is being used to modify the model or design a new material.

This all seems too good to be true. In practice, some actions seem to interrupt the rendering, so the system is perhaps not quite perfect. As always, the more memory and speed you have the better it is for smooth action. The pre-release version reviewed is complete, but it only has a 400-page Read-Me file for a manual, so I haven't read it in full yet. That said, the manual looks like being superb on the production version – a good introduction, plenty of reference material and a huge number of tutorials – looks like the perfect balance. Even using the Read-Me version it is easy to set up and use the software for most operations.

Modelling with *Real 3D* has always been a unique experience, a bit like driving a French



car. And like the French, the Meskanen brothers (the programmers of *Real3D*) have always taken an independent approach to the processes they are dealing with. In doing so they have derived many of the tools and methods themselves, and have reinvented ray-tracing on the way.

Initially, all of the tools were designed for solid modelling (using Boolean 'cutting' operations to give real-world construction processes). Later versions have added FreeForm objects and point editing to give a more organic appearance to the models, and Compound tools to automatically link several solid primitives into more complex objects – still a totally unique approach to construction.

The latest version has many more compound tool types, plus Uniform Cubic beta-Spline surfaces to give really smooth results when rendering organic objects. (Though they can be a bit slow, the improvement over Phong Shaded faceted objects is well worth the time penalty). These objects are defined by a series of Bezier curves, so the surfaces are true 3D curves rather than the normal sets of facets. These are also known as Surface Patches. Just by using slightly more advanced surface patches – called Non Uniform Rational Beta Splines (NURBS) – you can create complex sensual curves that are now found on most consumer products: from cameras and Walkmans to cars

An important part of model construction is the application of material qualities to an object. As well as the large range of surface-mapping methods that *Real3D* has always offered, version 2.0 now provides procedural textures. These replace the usual bitmap 'textures', (used to determine colour and bump height) with mathematical models, allowing an infinite range of surface effects.

To make applying material to objects simpler, textures are now shown in the Select window 'hierarchy' and apply to all objects at their level, so they can be duplicated, moved and used on other objects easily. The only real criticism is that it would be nice to have some form of material preview, perhaps in the form of a wrapped sphere for each material. Mind you, the rendering is usually so fast that most objects can be rendered for real as a preview!

To 'see' these materials and textures it is necessary to add some form of light source. *Real 3D* now offers linear and wall lights as well as points. As light from these sources comes from more than one point, shadows can have a variable intensity, especially along their edges where it drops off gradually. In most cases this will give you the soft-edged shadows that almost every object in the real world casts. The arrival of this feature has done more than anything else to make the images of *Real3D* really REAL.

However good the interface, modelling and material tools of a 3D system are, it is the quality of the images that really matters and *Real3D 2* has come up with the goods this time. A picture speaks a 1,000 words, so I'll shut up and let you appreciate the images here. New versions of *Caligari*, *Imagine* and *Draw4DPro* (now called *Alladin*) are all due for release and review soon, but they will have to be very good to come close to *Real 3D*.

Is it real or is it 3D?



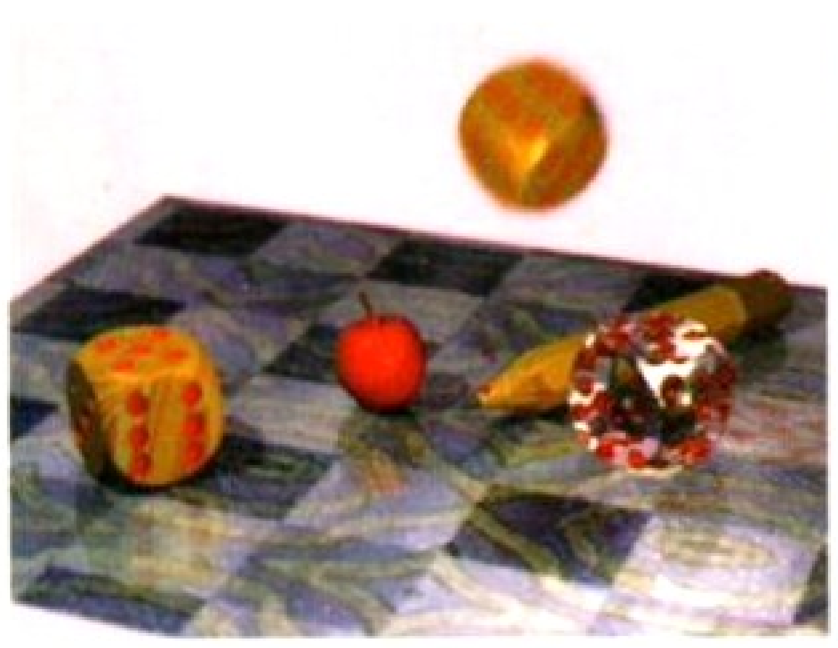
FRACTALS (SUNSET) ***Real 3D 2*** **offers two sorts of fractal objects – trees and landscapes – both shown in this picture. Tree fractals are built up from standard solid primitives – these are another form of compound object. As shown here, and with considerable practice (no mention in the disk manual), they are still difficult to try and get them to look right. Maybe with more work and better instructions it would be possible to get them to appear better.**



TEXTURE MAPPING (FREEDOM) No blur or soft shadows here – but still a pretty dramatic picture with lots of texture and bump mapping. The floor is a procedural map – using a mathematically evolved pattern. The walls are bump mapped.



ATMOSPHERIC EFFECTS (MOON) The glow in the atmosphere of the planet shown here is the result of using a solid modelled turbid material with a Local Scope value. This gives a variable blend of the materials used, depending on the amount of light passing through. It sounds complicated, but buy ***Real3D*** **and you'll understand exactly what I mean.**



SMOOTH SHADOWS When you first look at this it looks more like a photo than a render picture. The softening of the focus at the back of the board and along the pencil, (depth of field effect) the smooth edges of the shadows and the motion blur on the 'flying' dice are all so well integrated that it is hard to fault. The quality of the transparent dice is also excellent – the light passing through it is distorted convincingly because it is a solid object – try doing that in ***Caligari*****!**

Real3D 2

SPEED ●●●●
Slows down when you have lots of views or if you have a lot of 'blurry' effects.

DOCUMENTATION ●●●●
Good introduction, plenty of reference and a huge number of tutorials.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●●
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FEATURES ●●●●●
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The Blue Ribbon Soundworks' colourful MIDI sequencer is back with a host of additional features. **Andy Nuttall** faces the changes...



This screen is actually a lot simpler than it first appears. Here, the main track window is visible behind the Media Madness window – used to sequence anims with your music.

Bars and Pipes Professional v2.0

MIDI Sequencer ■ £299.99 ■ Blue Ribbon Soundworks

IF YOU'RE USED to sequencers, where you simply create separate tracks of music by entering notes on to a musical stave or a 'piano roll'-type display, and then sequence the tracks together to make a song, then *Bars and Pipes Pro* will seem unusual to you.

When you load the program, the screen is made up of 16 bars, each corresponding to a single sequence. To enter notes, double-click on the required bar, and a window opens with a magnified version of the bar inside, so you can enter notes either using your mouse or via a MIDI input. With me so far?

On either side of a bar you will notice a pipe. This is because Blue Ribbon liken music sequences to water pipes, with musical notes 'flowing' from the MIDI keyboard, through the first pipe, and then recorded into the main musical bar in the middle. On playback, the notes in the bar actually 'flow' out through the second pipe on the right, and out to external MIDI equipment.

So why have the pipes? Well, a number of tools may be inserted into the pipes which affect the musical data as it passes through. For instance, the Echo tool can be added to give a reverb effect to the music; or an Arpeggiate tool can be added to automatically add an arpeggio effect to your sequence. The settings for the tools may be altered simply by double-clicking on their icon, so they are extremely flexible.

Blue Ribbon are continually revising *Bars and Pipes*, and releasing updates, but this version is a complete rewrite of the original. The frontend looks identical to version 1, but there are loads of new features which make it into more than just another MIDI sequencer.

It's worth mentioning that the program will not sequence internal Amiga samples as standard. It's MIDI-only, but you can integrate samples using a patch called the *Internal Sound Kit*, bought separately for £29.99.

The operation of version two is similar to the original. Most of the new features are involved with controlling other software and hardware. Big names such as the *SunRize* 16-bit digital recording cards and the new 16-bit *One-Stop Music Shop* card from Blue Ribbon itself may be sequenced from within the program without using any MIDI channels – indeed, the cards have MIDI interfaces built-in, so a combination of these cards can give you loads of available MIDI channels.

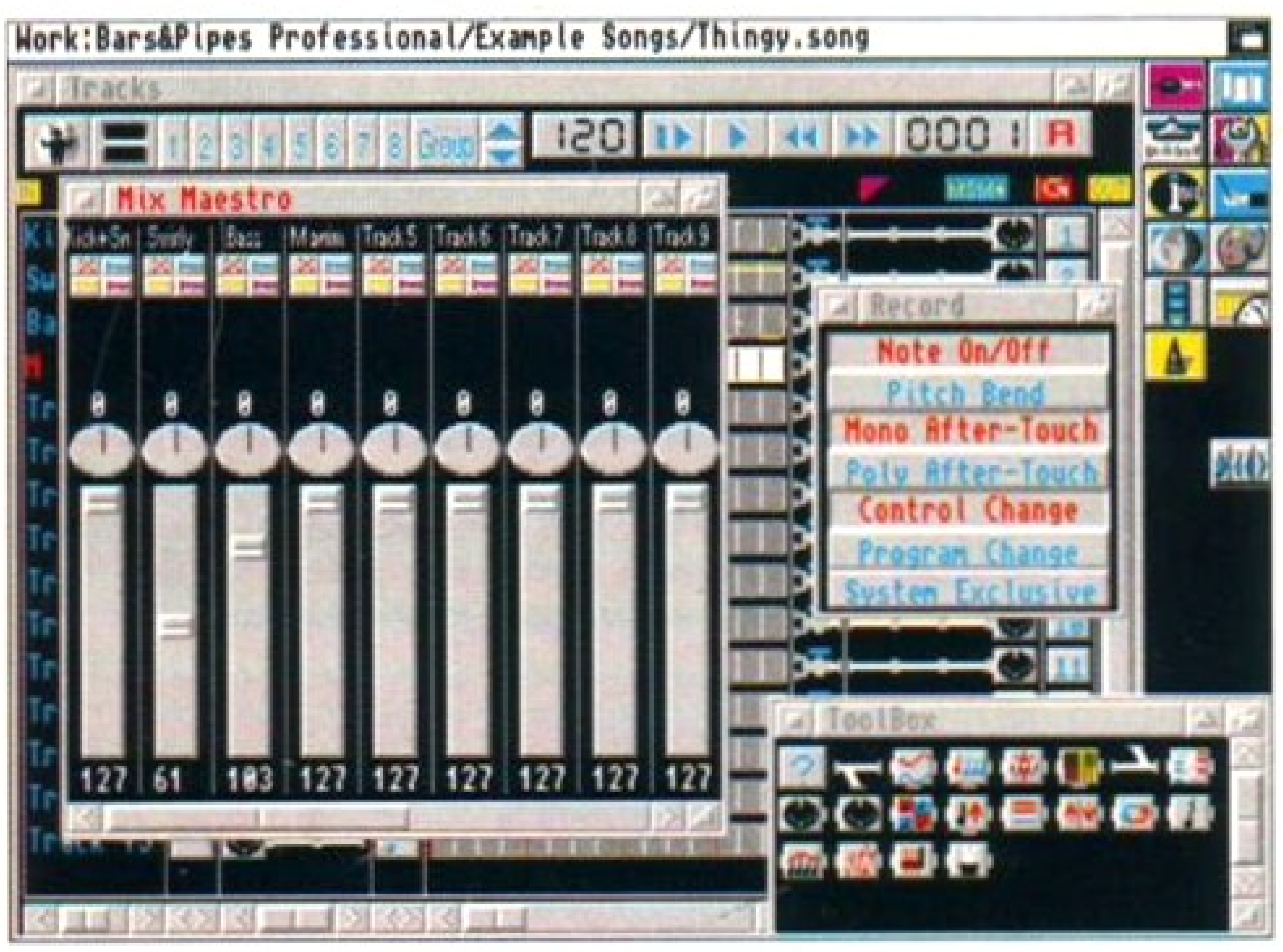
BARS & PIPES PRO is available from Meridian 081-543 3500

Other supported applications include the soon to be released G-Lock genlock and the IV-24 24-bit video card from GVP, *Scala* multimedia presentations and standard Amiga ANIM animation files. Also, the automatic mixing utility is compatible with virtually every hardware auto mixer on the market.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of version 2 is Media Madness, which enables you to sync together applications to create a graphics and sound performance. Although we couldn't test G-Lock and IV-24 with the program, it runs *Scala* and ANIM files very well.

Each application, such as an animation, a *Scala* presentation, or a graphic wipe is assigned a separate track of a special media sequence, and then to arrange them you add in the required notes on to the roll. A testament to the quality of this area of *Bars and Pipes* is that it was used on the promo videos for the LA and Atlanta Olympics, and *The Batman Returns* soundtrack was written using it, plus Paula Abdul and Evelyn Glennie swear by it.

The different windows may be arranged as you wish, as may the colours if they're not to your taste.
The big window here is the automatic mixer, which follows your MIDI control messages as your track plays.



***Bars and Pipes Pro* 2** is undoubtedly a powerful piece of software. In terms of MIDI sequencing, it uses an unusual system of inputting music information, so for the seasoned musician it's not as straightforward as say *Music-X*. On the plus side, the interface does become logical after using it for a short time, so beginners should find it easy to use.

Also, if you find that you haven't got room on the screen to fit all the windows you need, you can set a 'virtual' screen up to four times the normal size, and scroll around it using the mouse. This means you can put the track window in the top left, the mixer on the bottom right, the time code window somewhere else, and not overlap any windows.

Add to this its huge range of tools such as Media Madness and its compatibility with the high-end software and hardware mentioned earlier, and suddenly you have a studio engineer and video editor's dream.

Bars and Pipes Pro is a lot of money, but it's big, it's powerful, and it gives all other sequencers, on all other machines, a run for their money. Excellent.

Bars and Pipes

SPEED ●●●●
Speedy for most applications, and it keeps its time well.

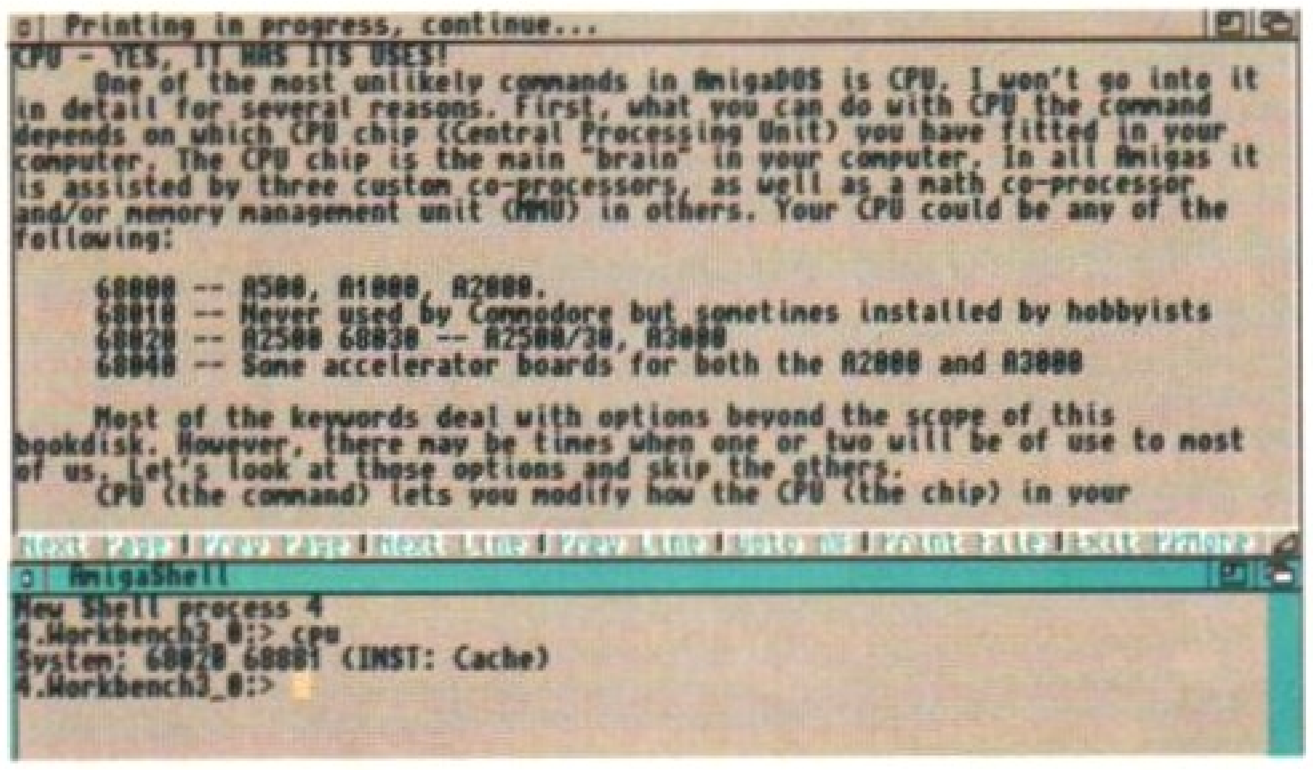
DOCUMENTATION ●●●●
A necessarily huge manual, which is better as a reference book than a teaching aid.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●
A daunting frontend, which becomes clear after a few hours of playing around.

FEATURES ●●●●●
An impressive range of applications – far more than the usual MIDI sequencer

VALUE ●●●●
A professional, full-featured package, with a professional price tag to go with it.

AMIGA GOLD FORMAT **90%**



Now I've never come across that command before. Though not exciting on the visual side, *DOS LAB* does contain some useful information.

DOS LAB

£19.99 ■ Disk tutorial ■ George Thompson

Can you learn the basics of working with your Amiga by just booting from a disk? **Richard Baguley** takes a refresher course with a new disk-based tutorial…

DOS LAB is available from George Thompson Services 0707 391389

IT'S A PRETTY ambitious thing, trying to teach a beginner all of the basics of using the Shell and CLI, but this is exactly what these disks aim to do. This three-disk set contains two versions of the tutorial, one designed for Workbench 1.3 and the other for Workbench 2 and 3 on the A600 and A1200. Each tutorial is is divided into several chapters, with each one covering a different subject, such as the list command or the intricacies of passing parameters to scripts. The idea is that you read the tutorial in the top two thirds of the screen, and practice the new commands in the Shell which runs in the bottom third.

Unfortunately, booting from either version doesn't take you straight into the tutorial, but into the Workbench. So, in order to start the tutorial off, you need to open up a couple of drawers and double click on the icon, which for a disk that's supposed to be teaching the basics, seems to be rather a serious omission.

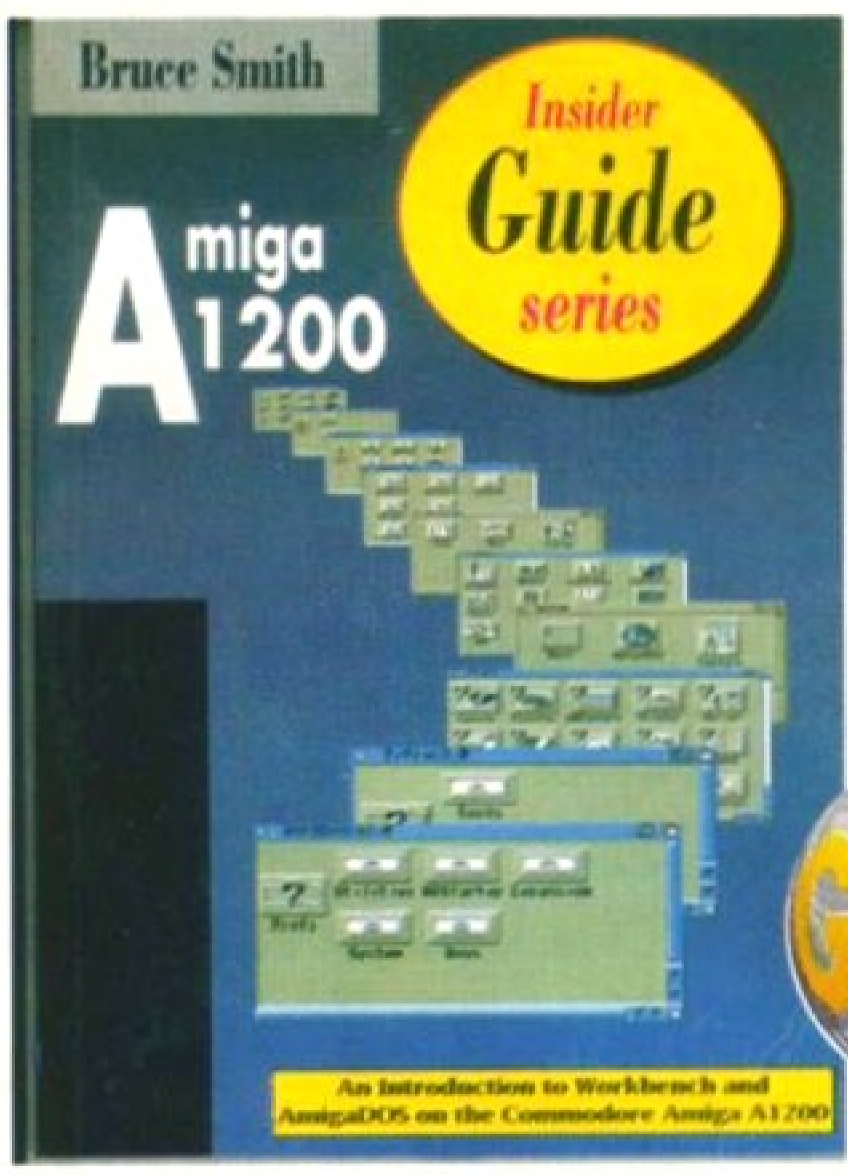
You also have to start off the Shell yourself. It would have been easier though, to stick this in the startup sequence. These disks are designed to teach you about the Shell and not Workbench, but even so it's rather a bad start. After all, if you are trying to make these nasty, uncommunicative things called computers easier for a novice to understand and get to grips with, then you should try and make the tutorials themselves as easy as possible to start off by automating the procedure. Despite this initial hiccup, though, the tutorials are pretty good. The chapters are organised in a sequence that makes it easy to run through them, or just skip to a particular subject if that's what you're looking for. Much of the text has been distilled from the 'problem pages' of the *Jumpdisk* diskzine, so it's all phrased in language that doesn't blind you with technospeak.

After running through a couple of the chapters I have learned several new things, and the text is written in a good down-to-earth style. It's a great idea, but it's rather let down by the presentation. It also seems rather expensive, especially when you look at the price of a decent book tutorial, like the ones below. It's not the sort of thing that you'd use for a long time, and it's much easier to flick through a reference manual if you're looking for information on a particular command or topic. It's a great idea, but unfortunately the way it's done lets it down.

DOS LAB

An interesting idea, but unfortunately spoilt by the poor presentation. The text is well written, though, and is obviously the fruit of many years of experience.

Amiga Format Verdict **70%**



Here's the *Insider Guide* for the A600 – there's also one for the HD version and the A1200.

Insider Guides

£14.95 ■ Reference guides ■ Bruce Smith

If you're looking for a guide to the A1200, A600, Workbench and AmigaDOS, then **Richard Baguley** has the answer…

INSIDER GUIDES are available from Bruce Smith Books 0923 894355

THESE TWO BOOKS are obviously aimed at the new A1200/A600 owner, or the beginner who's interested in learning the basics of Workbench on both the A600 and A1200. They're written by Bruce Smith, who's written and co-written several other books on the Amiga, including the excellent *Mastering AmigaDOS 2*. He's noted for his easy-to-understand style, and these two books are certainly no exception. They both start with the basics of computing (questions like 'What is a floppy disk?' 'How do I format a disk?') and work through the various aspects of working with Amigas, leading on to more complex subjects like scripts, printing and working with hard disks later. Both books include an excellent chapter which gives the real facts about computer viruses, and strips away some of the fallacies commonly held by newcomers.

All of the chapters have plenty of examples and tutorials, which are written in a way that makes it easy to read and remember. Plenty of screen grabs are included, so the reader can see exactly what's being discussed in the text. There's also a good index, which is invaluable when you're looking for a specific command or subject.

The A1200 version of this book is more or less the same as the A600 version, but with a few sections rewritten and the screen grabs updated to take into account the (mostly cosmetic) changes with Workbench 3, slightly more about the new AGA modes would be appreciated. Neither does it make any reference to using a hard disk with an A1200, but because these have only recently become available in either pre-fitted or kit form, this is no real surprise.

These books are well written, and Bruce Smith has a style which makes even complex subjects seem relatively simple and easy to understand, even if he does have a rather curious sense of humour.

The book is easy to read, and the layout makes it easy to understand, with commonly used tips or procedures put in separate boxes on a page, making them easy to find. At £14.95 they may seem rather expensive for a paperback if you've not bought this type of book before, but it's a fairly typical price for a computer book. If you're a beginner or a newcomer to Amigas, these two books provide an excellent way of finding your way around your new machine.

Insider Guides

Good for the beginner who needs to work out his or her RAM disk from their binddriver. An easy-going style makes it easy for both the beginner and expert to work through.

Amiga Format Gold **90%**

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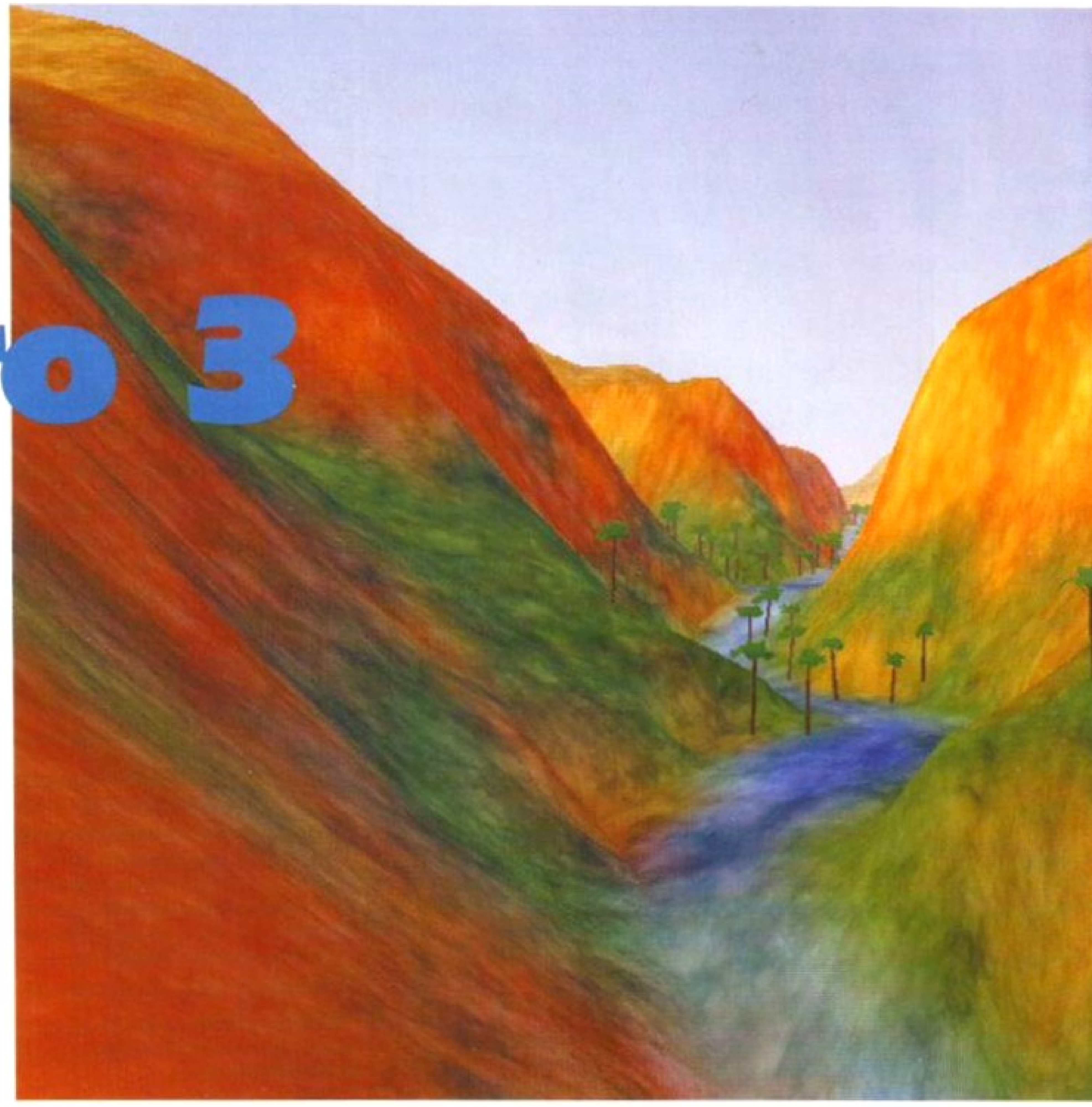
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Vista Pro 3

Fractal generator ■ DMI PLC ■ £69.95



Vista Pro3 in action. Do we love it? My oh my, river deep, mountain high. A new release of *Vista* is always welcome in the *Amiga Format* offices, and *Vista Pro 3* is no exception. The ability to render to HAM8 format is truly wonderful, because previously you had to own an expensive 24-bit frame buffer card to see the landscapes in their true glory. Now any A1200 or 4000 owner with a hard drive and loads of RAM can see them.

THE SUN RISES slowly over a far away mountain, illuminating a dense oak forest and the gently lapping waters of a crystal-clear river. Clouds occasionally litter the sky, and the sun glistens off the snow-capped mountain peaks in the distance…

As you may have guessed, this is the new version of *Vista Pro*. Way back in the good old days (***AF***35) we reviewed *Vista Pro 2*, and awarded it 92 per cent and an ***Amiga Format*** Gold. Those of you with even better memories may remember that we gave away *Vista* (the non-pro version) on the Coverdisk of Issue 33, to the general acclaim of the masses. If you weren't among them, copies of this are still available on Page 158.

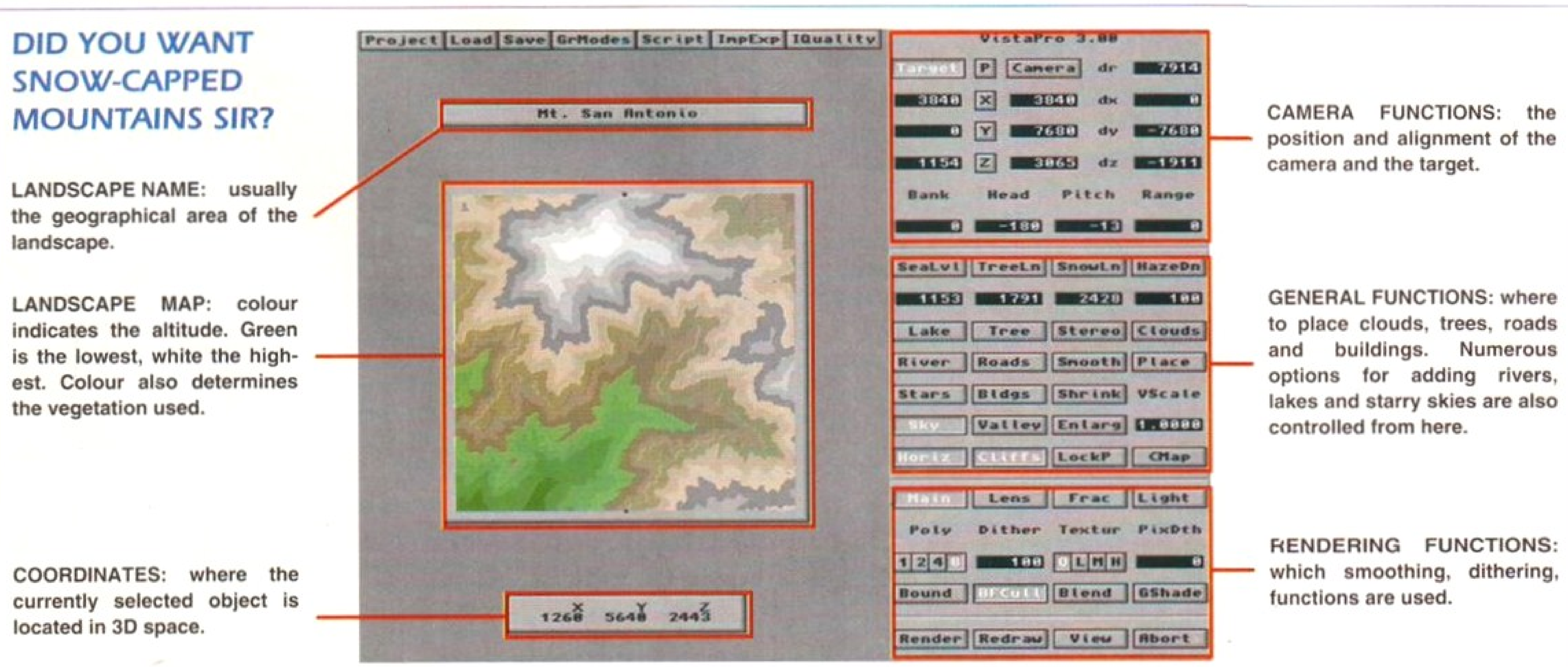
If you're one of the unenlightened who has never come across *Vista* before, it's a fractal landscape generator. It takes a file filled with data describing points on a map, and produces images from this using fractal mathematics. The data can either be from a real map (obtained from data produced by the US Geological Survey), or one generated by the program by fractal means from a random number. Applying some weird fractal maths to this data produces an image that looks like the real world, except you're in control of the lighting, colours, vegetation, buildings, etcetera.

VISTA PRO 3 is available from DMI PLC 0753 686000

This latest version comes with a variety of data files, giving you the opportunity to make fractal models of various parts of the United States, as well as parts of central Europe and the Olympus Mons mountain on Mars. All of these are based around mountains and other major geographical features. After all what's the point in generating a landscape that's flat? Various other data disks covering most of the tall, lumpy and interesting bits of the USA are also available.

This version of *Vista Pro* will work with Workbench 2 or greater only. So, if you're still using Workbench 1.3, this could be a good excuse for finally getting that upgrade you've been promising yourself for the past few months. It is also very greedy for memory, so you'll need at least 4Mb of free memory, or 6Mb if you're planning on using the new high resolution AGA modes. If you're creating images bigger than the screen for inclusion into documents, or using the huge landscape

DID YOU WANT SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS SIR?





files, you'll need even more. This is the first program that I've ever used that's complained about the lack of chip RAM on an A1200. It can be run from a floppy disk, but, frankly, I wouldn't recommend it. However, I don't think there will be many people out there running Amigas that have 4Mb of memory and no hard disk.

The main new feature of version 3 is the support for the new AGA chip set. Using these new modes, it's possible to get images that are very close in quality to 24 bit, as you can see from the HAM-8, 1024-by-512 pixels image above. However, you don't get something for nothing in this cruel world of ours, as images in the new modes take significantly longer to render, especially the higher resolution modes.

Fortunately, the new HAM-8 modes are not as prone to fringes as ordinary HAM images often are. As far as rendering the images goes, it does seem faster than previous versions. Also included is a wire-frame view option for looking at the landscape from the camera's point of view, but because there's no hidden line removal, this isn't really of any practical use. You'd be better off doing a quick render to judge what the final image is likely to look like.

There's now a good selection of new objects which can be scattered around, including roads which can run across the verdant pastures of your landscape. These aren't overly visually exciting, but they could be useful for adding realism. Unlike earlier versions, it's also possible to place each tree and building individually, if you require this amount of realism. On the subject of trees, this version now supports 3D ones, with four types (oak, pine, palm and cactus). Previous versions of *Vista* only drew these in two dimensions, leading to flat and scrawny looking trees. In version 3 trees are drawn in three dimensions, and look pretty real. This adds greatly to the realism, but there's a big penalty to be paid in terms of time, especially if you set the trees to draw in high detail. There don't seem to have been any profound improvements in the processing speed of the program, with simple renders taking only a few seconds and complex ones still taking several hours.

There's still no support for producing normal animation files, but there is provision to run external commands after generating an image, so you could probably set it up to use a program like ANIMBUILD to do it for you. You can use the proprietory VANIM format, but because it's not supported by anybody else, it's of limited use. However, it does have the advantage of not being limited by the size of memory, because each frame is loaded from the hard disk before it's displayed. So, if you had a 2 gigabyte drive, you could have a 2 gigabyte animation.

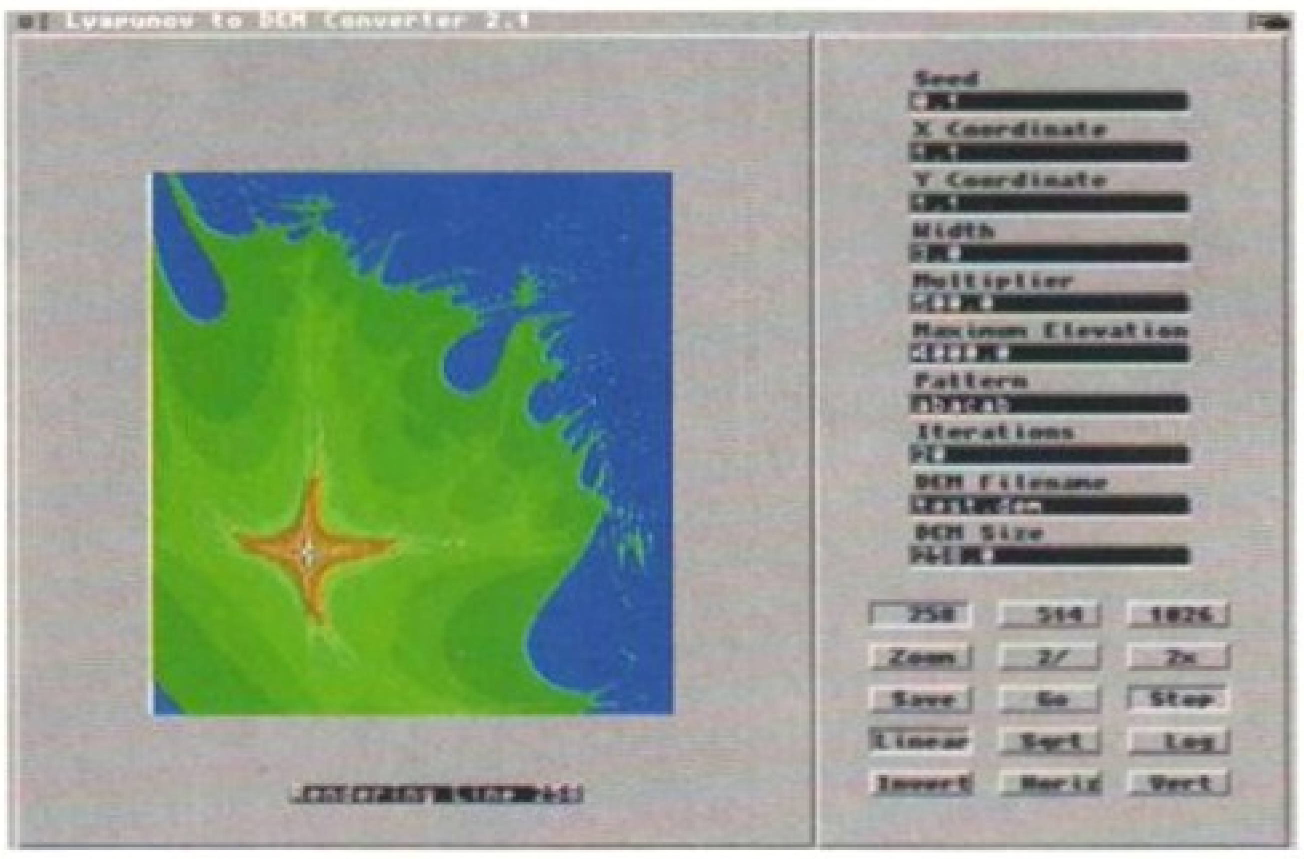
There have been no great leap forwards with this version of *Vista Pro*. There are several improvements, and a few new bits, but there's no sense in going forward, if all you're doing is keeping up with the capabilities of the Amiga. However, it's still the best landscape generator around, and it still has the edge over *Scenery Animator* for creating still images.

However, the lack of any proper animation facilities is a pain, and *Vista* may be losing adherents due to this. The VANIM format works and is relatively fast, but it's a dead-end, because you can't import the files into any other programs.

Despite this, it still deserves an *Amiga Format* Gold. With the power of the *Vista Pro* program, and the stunning quality of the new AGA modes, it's not difficult to produce images of a quality indistinguishable from those viewed on 24-bit graphics devices. After all, this is what virtual reality is all about...

Life beyond Mars...

There comes a time when you get bored with generating landscapes of Mars, and you crave a whole new world to look at. Included in the *Vista Pro 3* package is a program which allows you to reach out into the wild and strange realms of higher mathematics. This program generates map files using a rather curious mathematical phenomenon called Lyapunov space. I won't explain this here (as all us journalists tend to say when they don't understand something themselves), but suffice to say that it's something to do with fractals, and generates very weird-looking landscapes which can be saved out as .DEM files, for loading into *Vista Pro 3*.



The Lyapunov-to-DEM converter in action. I hereby name this mountain Mount Weird Lyapunov.



And here we see the gentle slopes of Mount Weird Lyapunov, sparsely populated by cactuses.

CREATING YOUR OWN WORLD

If you're not happy with either the map files that come with *Vista Pro* or the random landscapes generated with it, then you can generate your own map. You can either do this by drawing the map in a program such as *DPaint IV* and importing it as a colour map or by using the add-on program *TerraForm*. This enables you to edit the files containing the map data (which all end with the suffix .DMS) or create your own completely from scratch. You can even include buildings or Stonehenge-like structures. It was reviewed in *AF*35, and we're currently waiting for a new version to be released. Once it hits the (*Vista* generated) streets, we'll give you the full lowdown on it.

Vista Pro 3

SPEED ●●●●
It takes up a lot of power and the images take time to render, but it's tolerably fast.

DOCUMENTATION ●●●●
The main manual is easy to use, and there's a separate tutorial and script manuals.

ACCESSIBILITY ●●●●
Incredibly easy to use, and the images look impressive too!

FEATURES ●●●●
Trees, buildings, roads, stars – what more could you want in your world?

VALUE ●●●●●
At its new low price, *Vista Pro* is the clear leader in the landscape generator race.

AMIGA FORMAT GOLD **92%**

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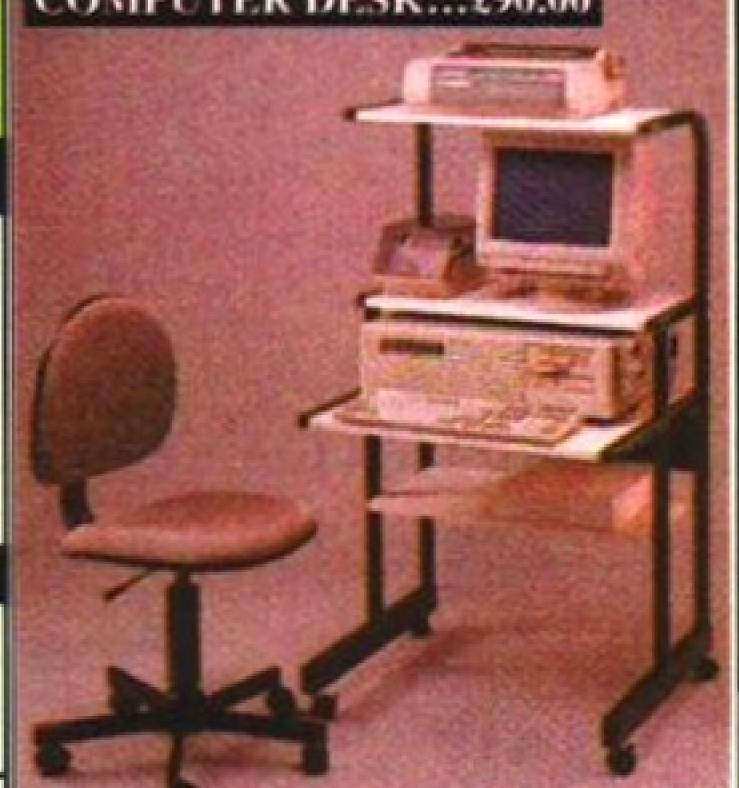
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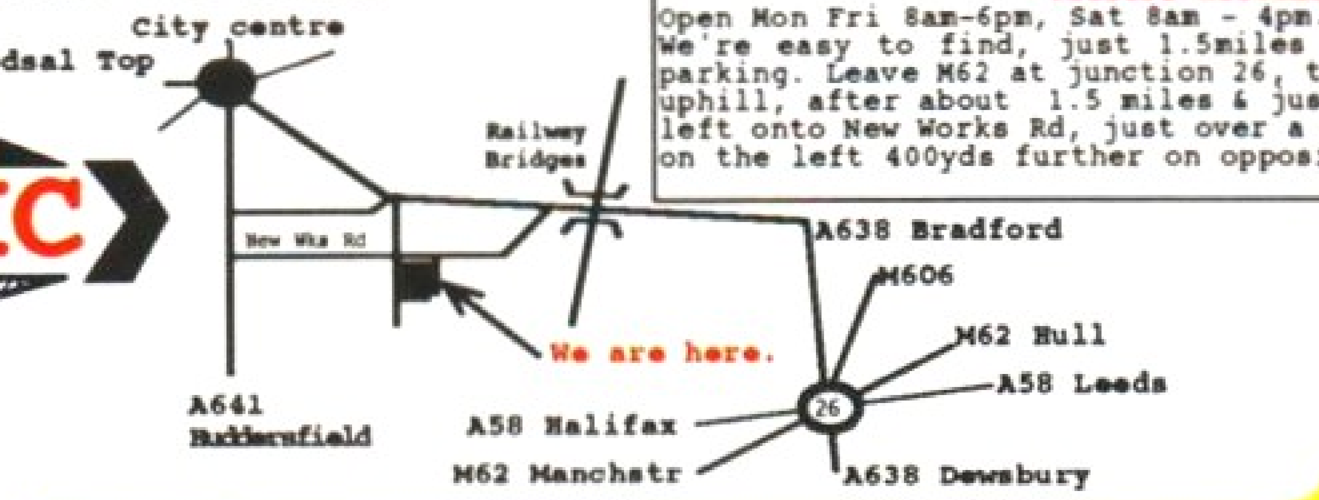
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History Line



The course of the Great War is explored in this excellent war/strategy game from Blue Byte. Based on their earlier successful game *Battle Isle*, *History Line* scored an incredible 94 per cent in *AF*43.

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
History Line	~~£34.99~~	£29.99	AF251

VideoMaster



MicroDeal's new combined audio and video digitiser enables you to capture both sounds and pictures for manipulation on your A500 or A500 Plus, allowing you to make your own multimedia movies.

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
VideoMaster	~~£69.95~~	£64.95	AMF245

Sportsmasters



Not only *PGA Tour*, the best golf game ever (and don't believe anyone who tries to tell you other wise), But *Indianapolis 500*, *Advantage Tennis* and *European Championship Soccer 1992*, all in one box. Buy it!

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
Sportsmasters	~~£29.99~~	£24.99	AF252

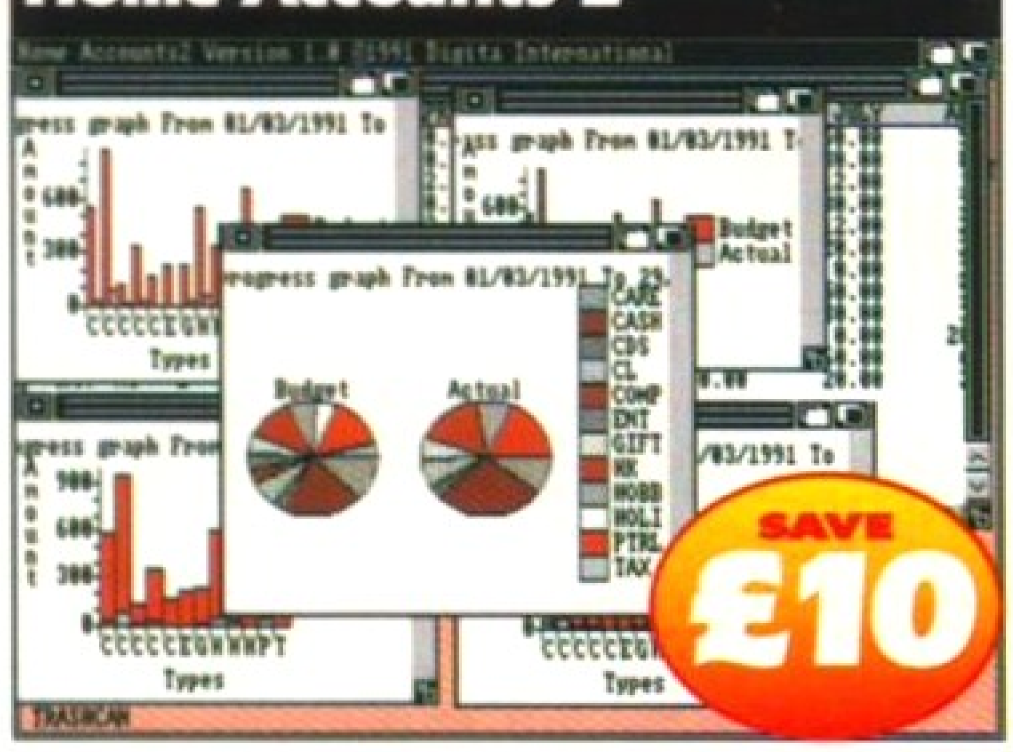
Fun School 4



Let the kids and the Amiga make friends, with Europress' acclaimed educational software!

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
Teddy Disk	~~£24.99~~	£17.99	AM231
Frog Disk	~~£24.99~~	£17.99	AM232
Spy Disk	~~£24.99~~	£17.99	AM233

Home Accounts 2



Described by ***Amiga Format*** as "a package which will suit any household", this is the ideal way to keep track of your financial affairs, from what's in your cheque account to how much is left after the bills!

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
Home Accounts 2	~~£54.99~~	£44.99	AF229

Amiga Format Mail Order

mini Office



Everything you need to turn your own home into an integrated business environment all in one handy package. A word processor, spreadsheet, database, graph utility and disk organiser in a complete set.

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
Mini Office	~~£59.99~~	£49.99	AFMinOff

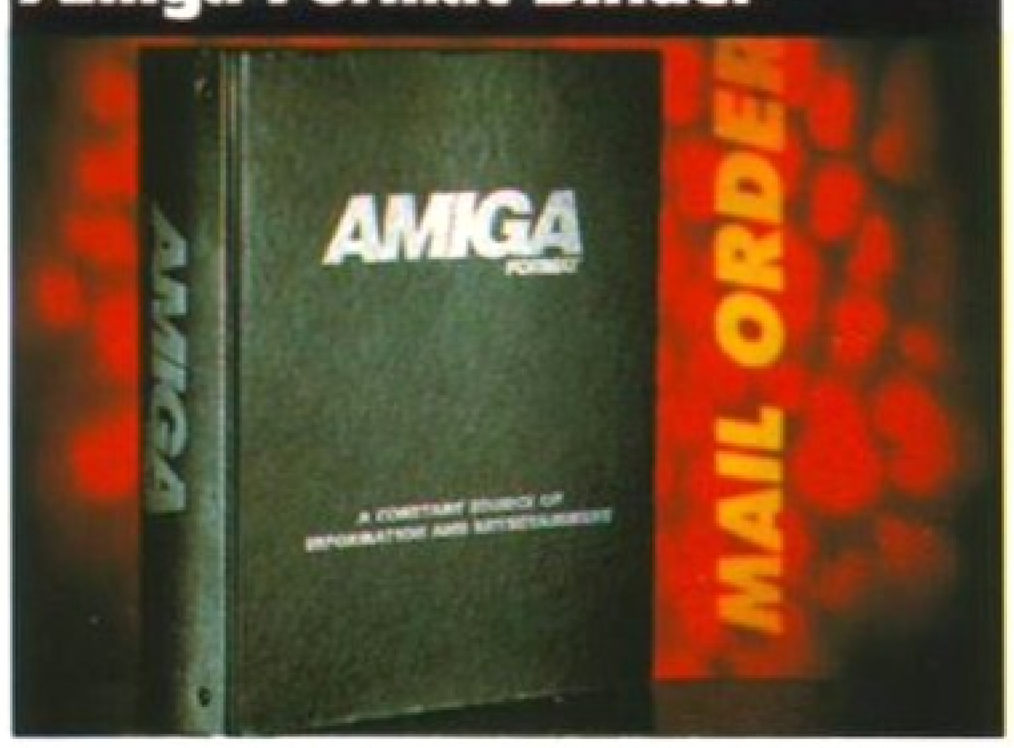
RAM Expansion



It's well over a year since new Amigas were sold with less than 1Mb of memory. Nowadays many games, as well as most serious software, require that magic meg. Here's a bargain way to upgrade your A500.

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
512K RAM Expan	~~£29.99~~	£25.99	AM237

Amiga Format Binder



Are you tired of all your ***Amiga Format***s being left scattered all over the floor? If so, protect them with these stylish and practical black-and-silver binders.

Description	Price	Order Code
One binder	£4.95	AF108
Two binders	£9.00	AF109

The Amiga Format Star Buys

AF Amiga Accessories



If your bedroom or lounge, or wherever is anything like the *AF* offices, you'll be needing a dust cover for your Amiga. Designed in a nice grey they're just bound to be all the rage in 1993.

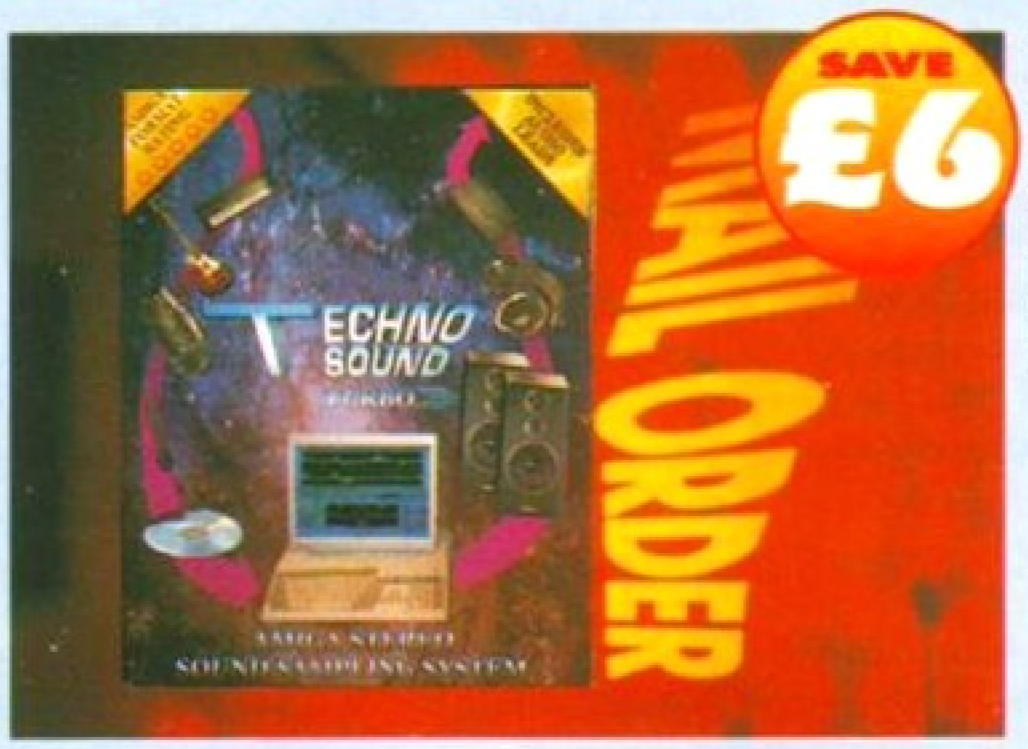
And knowing that co-ordination is the key, we've created matching mouse mats and disk wallets as well. The covers and wallet are resilient and water resistant and the mouse mat is well... sort of flat and grey actually. Get them now, or get them later.

Description	Price	Order Code
A500 dust cover (not pictured)	£8.99	AF5 DUST7
A600 dust cover (not pictured)	£8.99	AF6DUST
Monitor cover	£12.99	AFMONIT
Disk wallet	£3.99	AFWALL
Mouse mat	£7.99	AFMAT

Special offer, buy a full set and save money.

A500 cover, monitor cover, mouse-mat, disk wallet	£29.95	AFCOVERS5
A600 cover, monitor cover, mouse-mat, disk wallet	£29.95	AFCOVERS6

New Technosound Turbo



This recently updated sampler from New Dimensions enables you to grab digitised sounds, then sequence them into simple compositions. It also contains a new cartridge, an updated manual *and a* set of audio leads.

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
Technosound Turbo	~~£35.95~~	**£29.95**	**AF246**

StereoMaster and free Quartet software

This update of *MasterSound* is an ideal entry-level sound sampler. It features an improved, easy-to-use graphic interface, and as an extra special offer we are throwing in for free, the excellent *Quartet* sample MIDI sequencer. This powerful, but easy to use, four-track sequencer will enable you to build your sampled sounds into full music tracks.

At this price, no budding Amiga musician can afford to miss it.



Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
StereoMaster and Quartet	~~£39.95~~	**£29.99**	**AF234**

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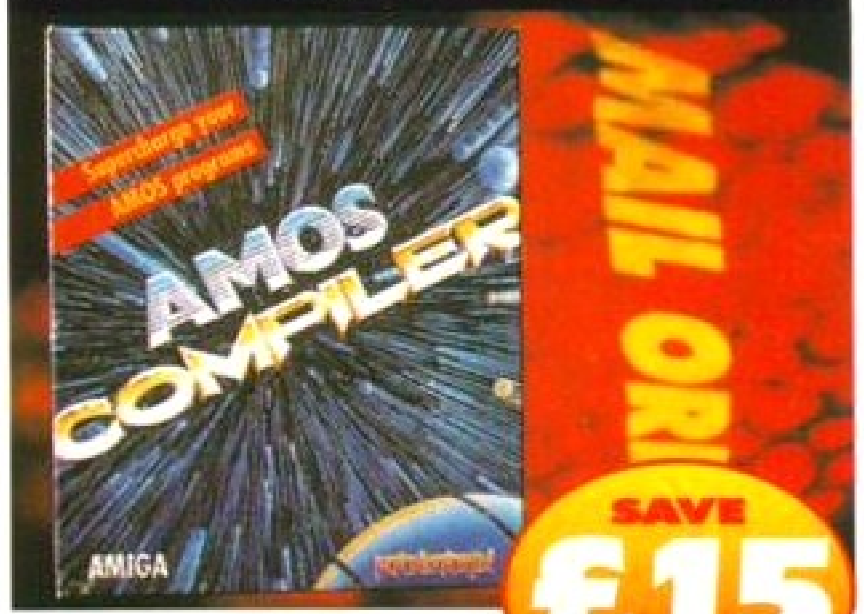
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The AMIGA FORMAT Collection

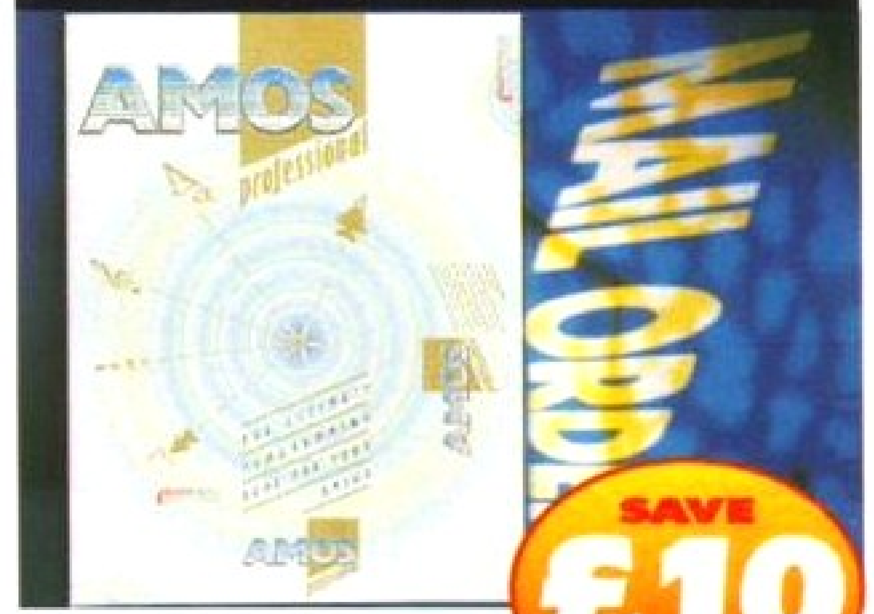
AMOS Compiler & AMOS 3D



If you want to get the most out of *AMOS*, why not buy the two most popular *AMOS* extensions in one pack? The *Compiler* translates your *AMOS* creations into stand-alone 100 per cent machine code, while *AMOS 3D* lets you create amazing 3D worlds!

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
AMOS Bundle	~~£64.99~~	**£49.95**	**AF247**

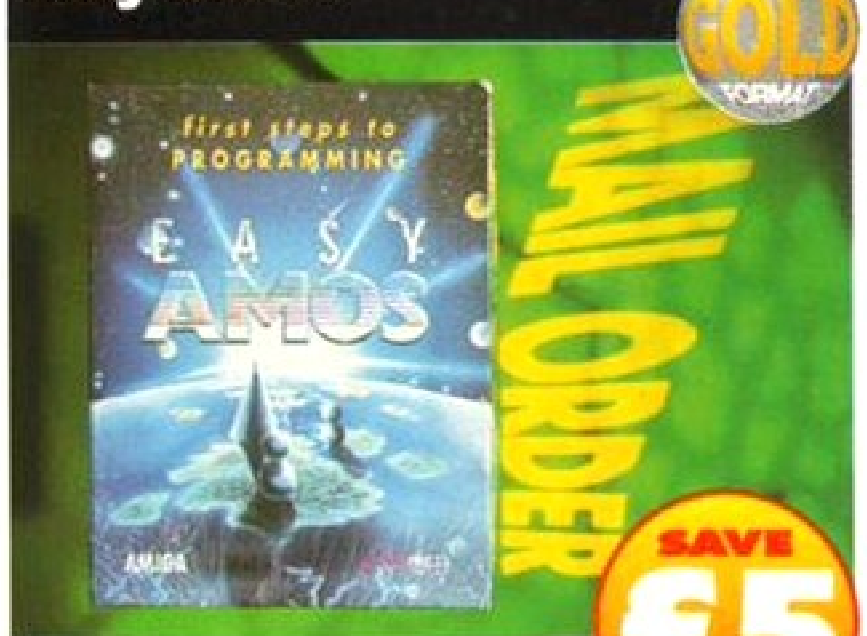
AMOS Professional



This is one of the highest-rated programs ever reviewed in ***Amiga Format***. Top of the *AMOS* range It updates the famous *AMOS* extended basic programming language with new commands and facilities that make it a real winner! (Needs 1Mb minimum.)

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
AMOS Pro	~~£69.99~~	**£59.99**	**AFAMPRO**

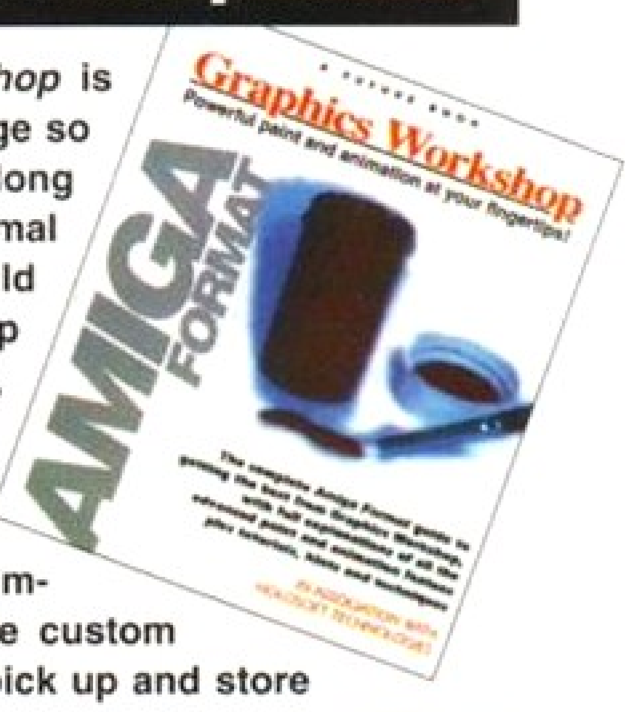
Easy AMOS



Designed for the beginner who wants to learn programming but doesn't know where to start, *Easy AMOS* is more than a programming language. Based on the successful *AMOS*, it has many helpful examples and detailed explanations to help you learn.

Description	RRP	Price	Order Code
Easy AMOS	~~£34.99~~	**£29.99**	**AF250**

Graphics Workshop Manual

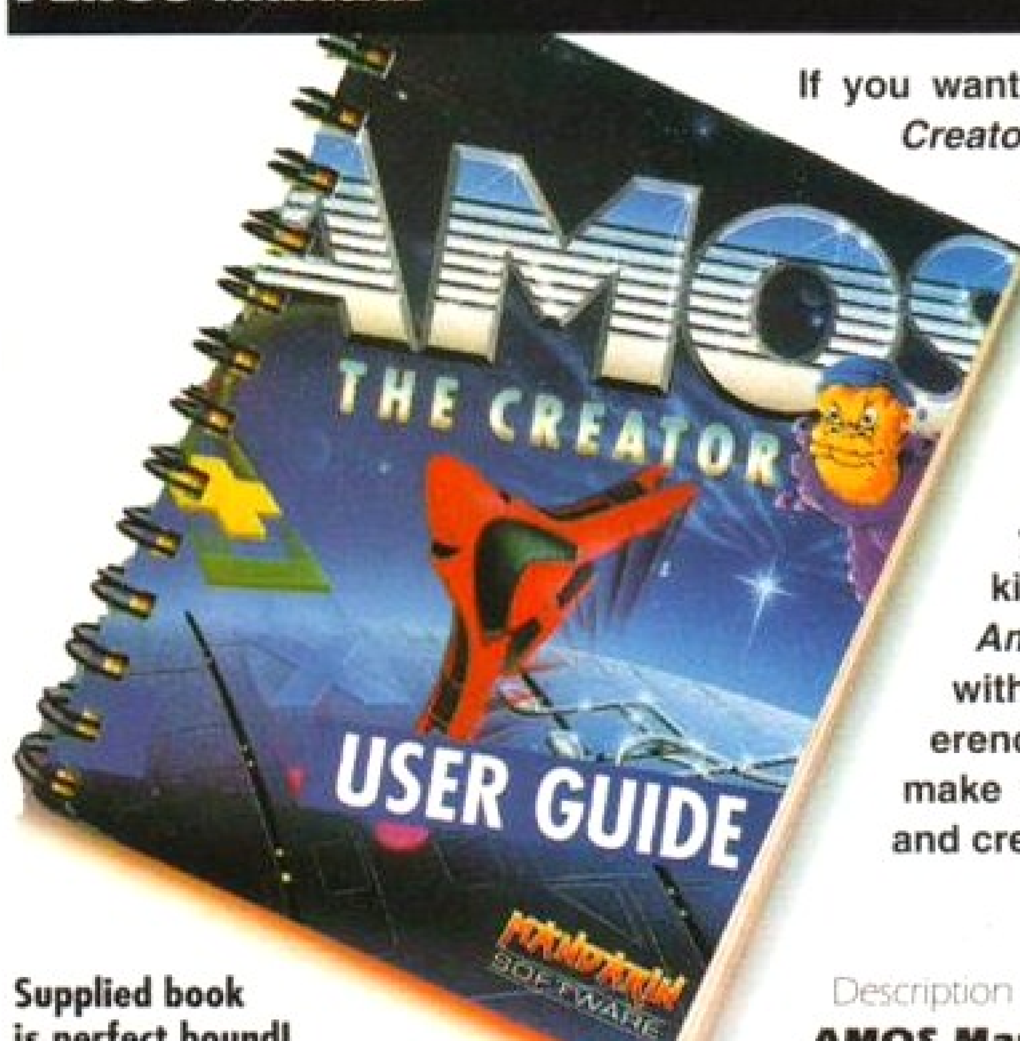


Graphics Workshop is a drawing package so special that, along with all the normal tools you would expect from a top paint program, you get some powerful extra utilities.

You're not limited to using one custom brush, you can pick up and store up to 10. It also features ANIM and Animbrush forms of animation, and a cell system which is probably the most powerful animation system on the Amiga. Why not get the most out of this top program by buying this illustrated instruction book and tutorial guide (with a special tutorial disk).

Description	Price	Order Code
GWManual	**£13.95**	**AF249A**

AMOS Manual



Supplied book is perfect bound!

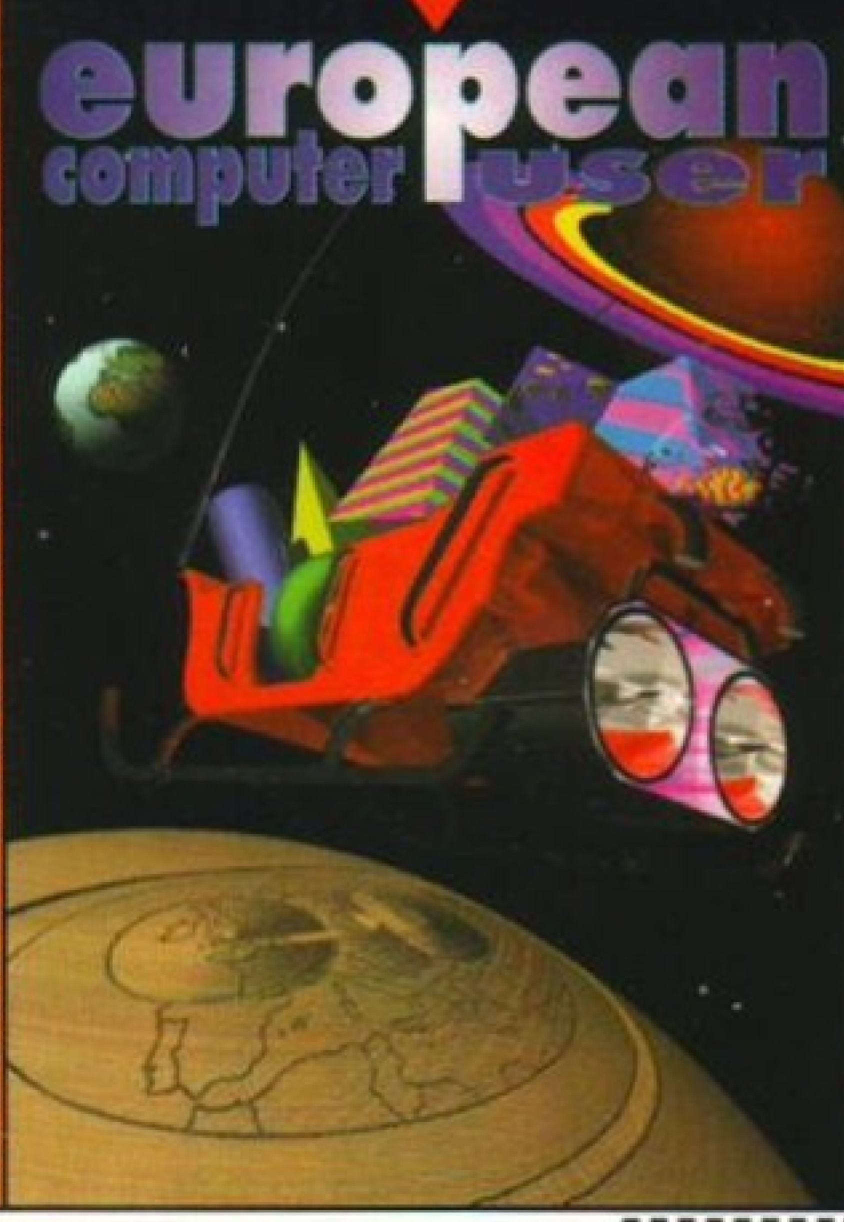
If you want to make the most out of *AMOS The Creator*, this is exactly what you need. It's the complete manual, as supplied with the package, and it also includes an Extras disk that contains all the example programs and extra bits and bobs that we couldn't fit on the *AF* Coverdisks. We'll continue to give lots of tutorials and advice, and show you techniques for creating specific kinds of programs as a regular feature in *Amiga Format*, so you wouldn't be stuck without this book: but as the complete reference work, you'll find *The Manual* will make your *AMOS* career far more enjoyable and creative!

Description	Price	Order Code
AMOS Manual	**£13.95**	**AF249**

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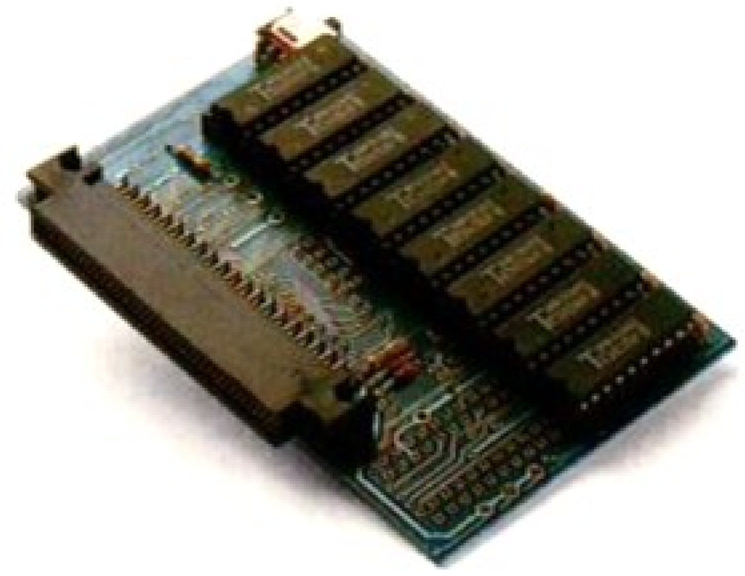
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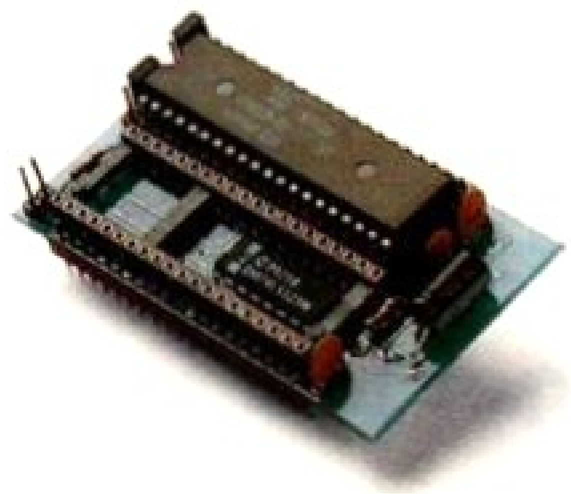
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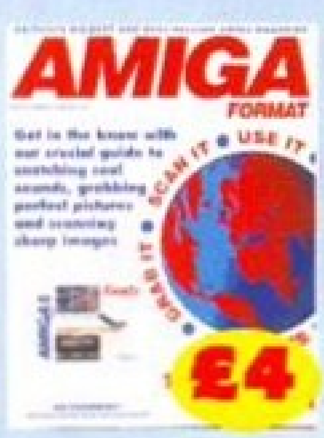
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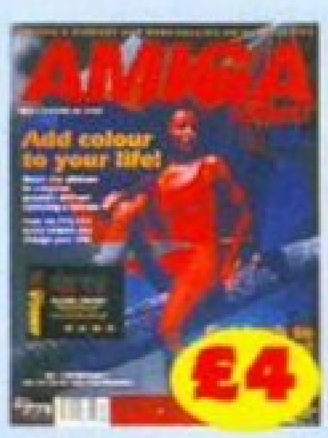
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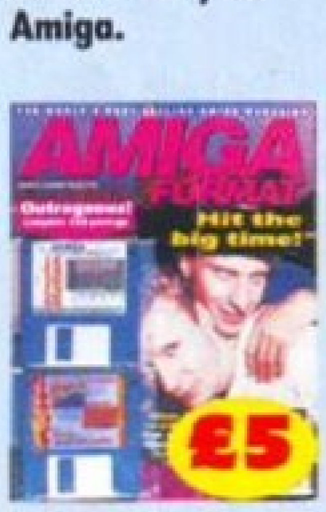
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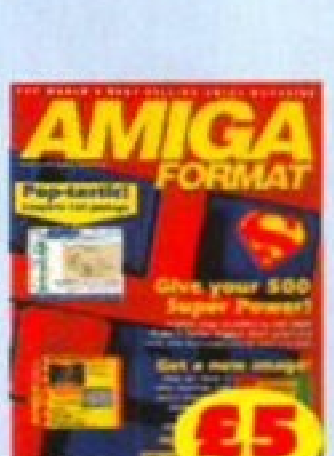
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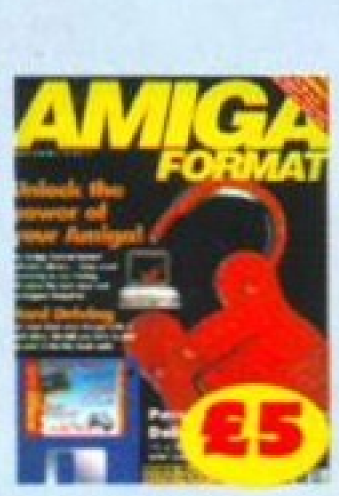
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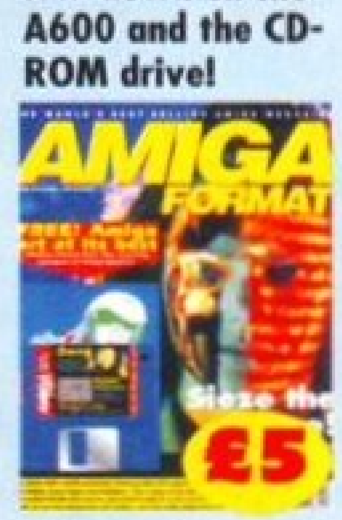
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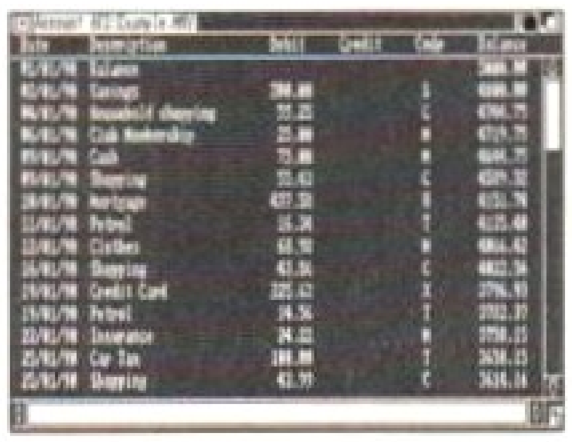
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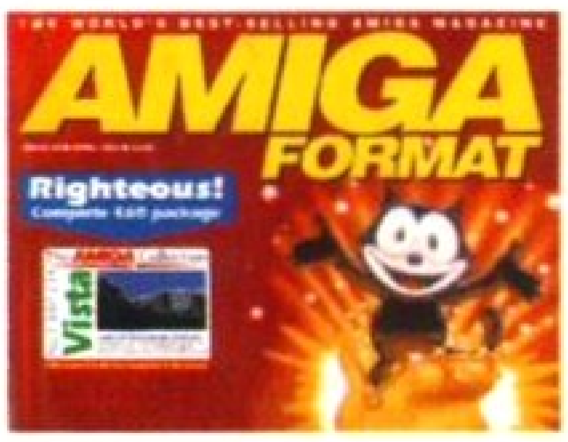
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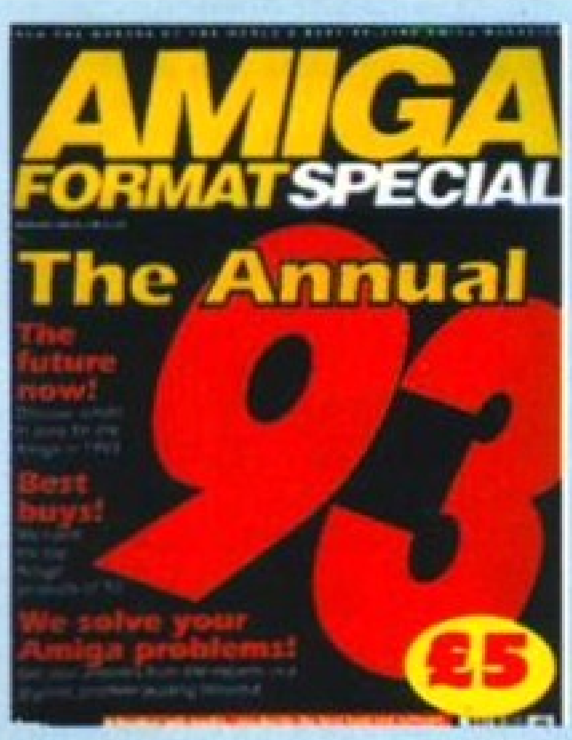
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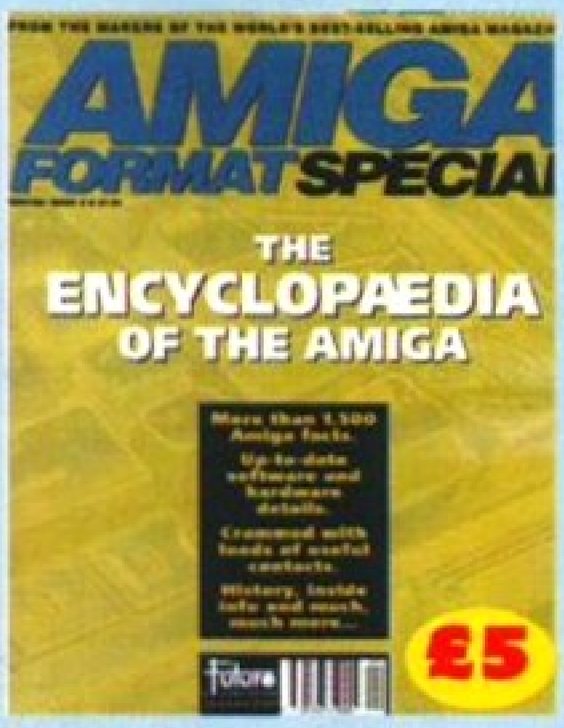
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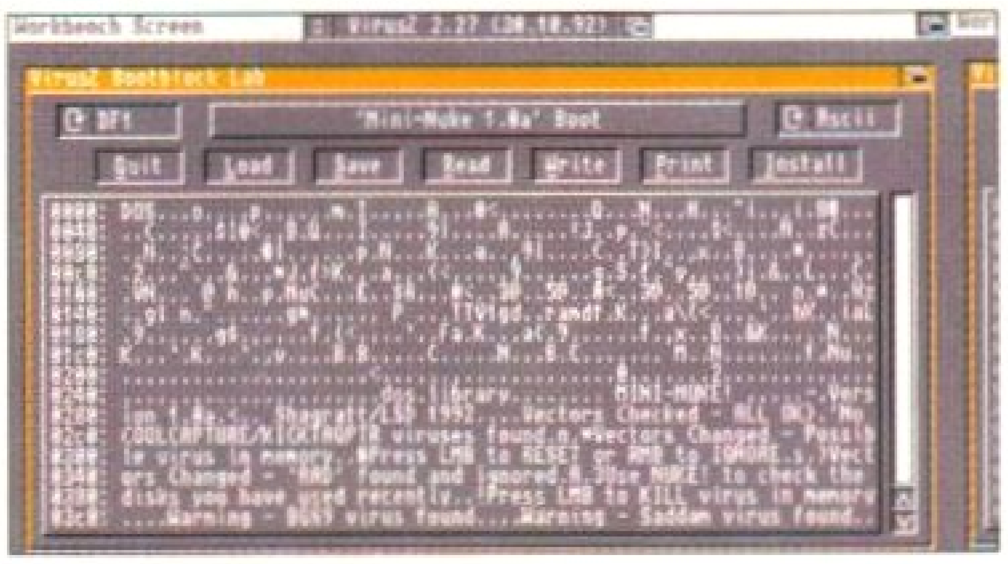
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PD Update

Beneath a huge pile of free software, **Richard Baguley** is sifting the good from the bad and the ugly. Saddle-up and don't spill spaghetti on your shirt. Here's a selection that shoot from the hip...

VIRUSZ
UTIL

ANGLIA U4030



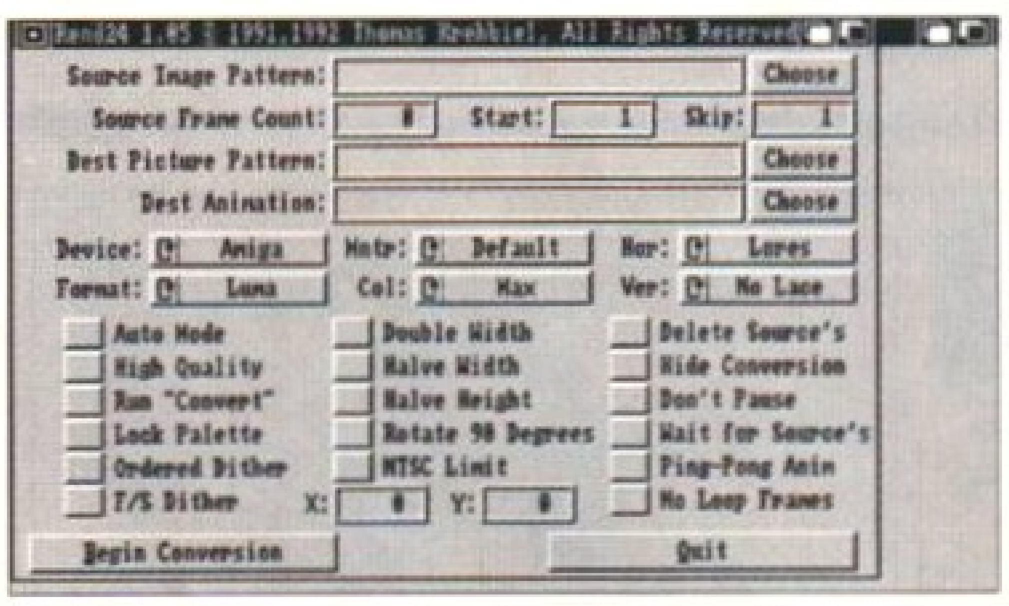
So it's not a virus, just one of those weird bootblock things. Phew!

The latest version (2.27) of this excellent virus killer recognises over 600 file and bootblock viruses, as well as a large number of anti-virus bootblocks. This disk is designed to work with Workbench 2 and 3, and 1.3 users will need to move a couple of libraries for it to work, but this is explained in the documents.

Once booted up, it runs in the background and keeps an eye on the system. Every disk inserted is scanned for anything unusual, and you're notified if it spots a virus. There's also a Bootblock Lab, which allows you to examine and edit bootblocks, if that's your idea of a good time.

LSD LEGAL TOOLS DISK 58
TOOL

CYNOSTIC U00010

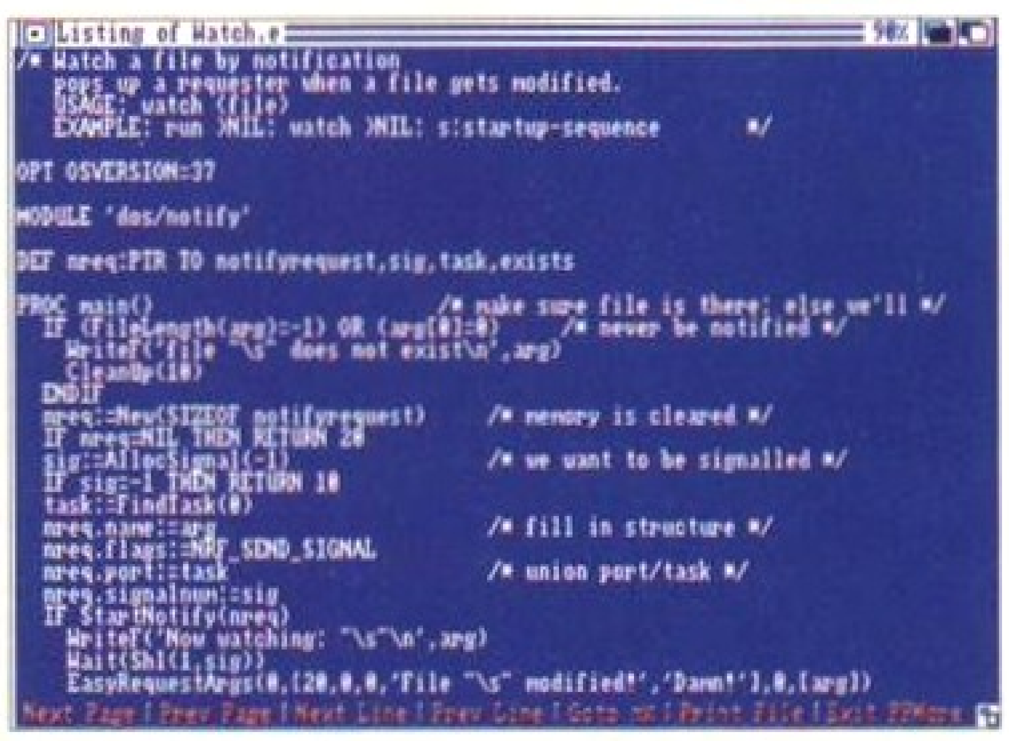


***Rend24* from the *LSD Legal Tools Disk 58* is a conversion program which converts things to a viewable format.**

This is a collection of various utilities gathered together by Pazza of the demo team LSD. Programs include *PostSIM*, which helps capture crashes, and *Rend24*, an image-conversion program which can convert groups of files unattended. Other delights include *Newlist*, a clone of the Unix utility *LS*, which is a highly configurable directory-scanning utility. This disk will appeal to demo coders and those with an interest in the dark, dingy depths of their machine, but not to most users.

AMIGA E
UTIL

PD SOFT V959



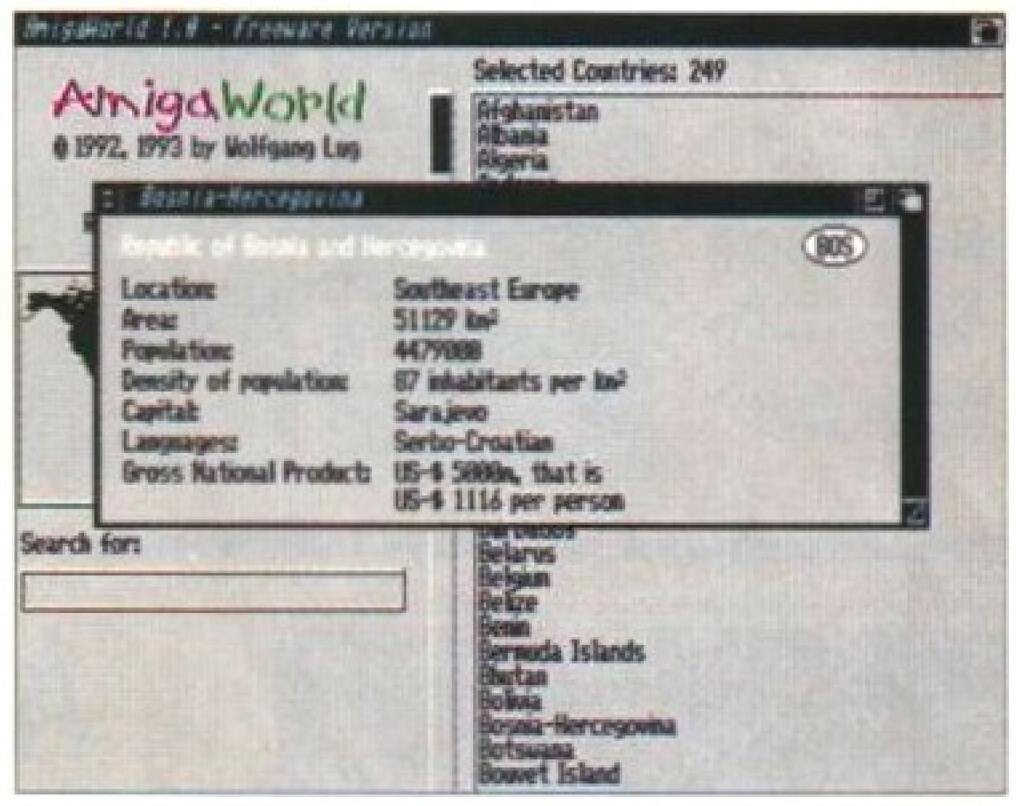
An E listing. If this lot makes sense to you, then you're a better man (or woman) than I.

E is a procedural higher programming language – whatever that means. It's influenced by C and is similar in structure to it, and the author, Wouter Van Merssen, makes various claims for it, including small and fast executables, incorporation of all Workbench 2.04 includes as E modules and that only one program is necessary for creating standalone programs.

It's still a pretty young language, but it has been well received by various programmer types. As well as the compiler, the disk contains a number of examples and a series of tutorials. This is pretty short, and starts with the basics (printing 'hello world'), and then moves on to creating system functions such as a quick directory reader.

EDUCATION PACK 2
EDUC

ANGLIA ED2



Gross national product of Bosnia? Probably rather difficult to assess with all that's going on out there.

This is a five disk collection of various educational programs, ranging from *AmigaWorld* (facts and figures on several hundred countries around the world) to mathematical reflex tests.

Several programs which don't seem to have an awful lot to do with education (like a fractal cloud generator and a Workbench pattern program) are also included, but it's an interesting collection, especially for geography students.

Continued on Page 164

BOMB JACKY
GAME

SOFTWARE EXPRESSIONS G252

This is a platform game, bearing more than a passing resemblance to (surprise, surprise) *Bombjack* on the C64. I do believe we're getting slightly nostalgic around here, you know. Despite its somewhat questionable heritage, it is a good game. The usual sort of platform thing: wandering around the screen, collecting all the bombs within the time limit while avoiding the green blobs, snails and other weirdies that bounce around. Occasional bonuses for freezing and slowing down monsters drop down the screen, just begging to be caught.

It's got a good acidic soundtrack, and a genuine C64 feel to it. If you're a nostalgic old thing like me, this could be for you. Eee, I remember when I was young, games were real games. Kids these days, don't know they're born.....



"Hello, I'm Metal Bloke and I collect bombs." What more could Metal Bloke want in life? Apart from an iron lady.



Look out! Look out! There's a snail and a rather curious globular thing out to get you!

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❑X **V871 3d HELPER** Are startingout with 3d graphics. This disk is just what you need.
❑X **V872 ICON TOOL KIT** Just about every tool you could possibly imagine
❑X **V873 UGFC v1.1** Utilities that will help you translate between Amiga Graphics and other computers.
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❑X **V876 SYSTEM TEST v4.1** Checks and reports on your computers Memory
❑X **V879 BEAT DIS MODULES** For use with OctaMED includes a Player
❑X **V882 MAGNUM v1.4** Another excellent Disk Magazine Creator
❑X **V888 TRONI CAD v1.0** The best Cad / Drawning program for your Amiga. Various power functions.
❑@ **V896 TOOLMANAGER v2.0** Includes the ability to add menu items to the 2.x Tools menu. add WB icons or dock Windows.
❑X **V897 OCTAMED v4.0** Save disabled version of the full featured OctaMED Pro the commercial product.
❑X **V899 ABACKUP v2.0** A Powerful backup utility that may be used for Hard Drive backup & File Archiving.
❑@ **V900 BOOTJOB v1.0** Include functions to store, install, view or execute any bootblock. Can save BB as executable files.
❑@ **V901 FIM v1.0** IntroMaker to create you own Intros. Features IFF import.
❑@ **V902 JCGRAPH v1.1** Demo version of the shareware title. Can show data as bar, line, planes, stack, blocks, 2d and 3d ect. Outputs in EPS, 3d geo, AegisDraw and IFF.
❑X **V903 UEDIT v4.0 (3)** Word Processor with learn modes, Online Help, A teach Mode, copy & paste.
❑X **V921 COMPUGRAPHIC FONTS** These's fonts will work with DPaint v4.1, ProPage, Pagestream, Pagesetter and Workbench v2.04+. About 30 Fonts **(3)**
❑X **V924 PLOT MAP v0.85** An extra for use with draw map v4.0 or v4.1
❑X **V925 SLAUGHTER CHEATS** Another selection of Hacks & Cheats
❑X **V928 THE LITTLE OFFICE** One of the best disks at the present time.
❑X **V936 LETTERS & BOILERPLATE** More Standard letters for you to use as your own or cut & pause.
❑X **V939 ANIM PB v1.2** Will show long sequences of animations or pictures fromn memory or disk.
❑X **V942 SCREEN BLANKERS** A disk packed with various screen blankers. Includes the Twilight Zone blanker.
❑X **V943 LYAPUNOVIA v1.0** A mind-bogglingly colourful program that makes pictures from a mathematical formula.
❑X **V945 PROPAGE 3 ENHANCER** Contains over 40 Genies for use with ProPage 3.0, including useful ones like Make Pie Chart & others. Includes structured clipart for unique borders!
❑@ **V946 SYSTEM OPTIMIZER** KCommodity gives you memory meters, mouse/keyboard enhancements. REorg will optimize hard and floppy disks for big speed increase. HDMem 2 meg of hard drive space for virtual memory.
❑X **V947 GNUPLOT** Is a command driven interactive function plotter. Creates stunning plot/graphs of mathematical functions. Req HD & unpacks to 1.6Mb
❑X **V948 INTUITION BASED BENCH MARKS** A great package with all the popular benchmarks including Sieve, Dhrystone, Savage, IMath & Matrix.
❑X **V949 TESTS** Contains all of the classic speed tests and system checks we could find. Includes CPU Speed, A full featured system diagnostic tool & more.
❑X **V950 GAME CONSTRUCTION** ADL is a programming language and run-time environment designed for the convenient writing of adventure games.
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❑X **V954 WHOM III (3)** An excellent database which covers Star Trek The Next generation, Classic Trek, Star cops, The prisoner, Blake 7 & Tripods
❑X **V957 TACKS v1.2** Is a collection of utilities to help you create your own self-booting animation disks
❑X **V958 CLUB LEAGUE** Is a utility that will allows you to edit and keep track of your divisons/leaggue stats.
❑X **V959 AMIGA_E** A specific compiler. E is a powerful and flexible procedural programming language
❑X **V960 CLEO v1.0** Inplementation of a new experimental Pascal like language. Includes Compiler+Source
❑X **V961 CPK v1.0** Will render a space filling representations of atoms in mole cules. Handles 3dimensional spheres.
❑@ **V962 SUPER KILLERS v3.0 (2)** Contains all the latest Virus Killers like BootX v5.23a, This program can save any bootblock and install it on another disk as well as check for viruses VC v6.2
❑X **V976 WB v2.04 UTILITIES 6** The next collection of WB v2.04+ utilities.
❑X **V977 FILE & HD No 5-6** Another excellent collect of HD utilities. **(2)**
❑X **V979 NCOMM v3.0** Is a communications program based on Comm v1.34 with lots of very nice enhancements. Has new functions over v2.0
❑ X **V980 KICK v1.3** Will downgrade A500+, A600, A1200 users machines to run software that would NOT normaly work. Turns them into a Workbench 1.3.
❑X **V981 FONTS & TEXTURES (2)** Harlequins Presents some High Quality Fonts and Texture disks.
❑X **V983 MEGA CHEATS v3.0c** Now contains over 500 cheats. just Point & click at the game you want
❑X **V984 PROTRACKER v2.95** The latest updated version from Norway. Varios bugs fixed and about 50 new features, (To many to list them)
❑X **V986 MAD TEE'S SHORT MODULES 2** An excellent menu system for you to listern to the modules with out needing a Tracker program. About 20 Modules.
❑X **V988 ZIPBENCH v4.0** Yet another Workbench replacemant but contains excellent utilities like, powerpacker v2.2a, powerplayer, SysInfo, VirusX, Archiver, b-Base, BootIntro, Degrader, fist Aid Box **(2)**
❑X **V990 DESKTOP MUSIC WORK SHOP v1.0** Is intended to be a tutorial in electronic music techniques. Its a simple guide to introduction you to some of the basic sounds and concepts used in sound systhesis. Requires 1Mb chip Ram and 2 disk drives are required. **(3)**
❑X **V993 SLIDEMANIA** A nice selection of very impressive High Class pictures.
❑X **V994 THE MONEY PROGRAM v1.5** Features include upto a maxium of 60 accounts, upto 50 direct paymenys, keyboard short cuts. Contains documents
❑X **V1000 GRAPH PRO v1.0** Written with Amos professional by David Jordan. Basically this program takes a set of data, plots them on a graph.
❑X **V1001 VMORPH v2.0b** By Lee Wilkie will allow you to create smooth morphs/warps between two different images over a period of frames to create an animation. Requires 1Mb
❑X **V1002 RAMOS PRO FOR AMOS PRO** If you have Amos Pro then this disk make your programs Boot without having to use your Amos pro even time.
❑X **V1003 NICKPREF** Is an enhancement to WB 2.0 which adds 3 new preferences WBPicture, BuzyPionter and Floppy
❑X **V1004 VIEWTEK** Picture viewer which supports, AGA/ECS, 24-bit ILBMs, Shows JFIF, JPEG & most ANIM Op anims

GAMES

❑ **1073 TETRIS ORIGINAL** This is the closest game to the original tetris
❑X **1420 DTRIS** If you want a1 or 2 player Tetris this has to be 1 of them.
❑X **1561 TRITWIS** Contains 1 player, 2 player & 3 Payer game options.
❑ **1747 LLAMATRON GAME 2001** By Jeff Minter & an excellent production.
❑X **1749 SCRAMBLE** 'The Original' Remember that old classic game
❑X **1870 PATIENCE'S** Play vs the computer or another human player.
❑X **1977 POM POM GUNNER** Shoot down the incoming world war II air planes in this Operation Wolf game
❑ **2018 JETMAN** Another Spectrum classic converted to the amiga. It's JetPak with all the original sounds.
❑X **2022 SEA LANCE** The first Silent Service type sub war game on PD
❑X **2054 ATIC ATAC** A rendition of the game from the original Spectrum
❑X **2162 BATTLE OF BRITIAN WAR GAME 2** Strategy war games.
❑X **2164 DUNGEON ON NADROJ** This is the best Dungeons & Dragons Public domain type game. Load Wb
❑X **2220 STRATEGIC GAMES** Eternal Rome, Lords of Hosts, In Moonshine
❑X **2221 MIND GAMES 21** of the best games to challenge your mind not your shooting skills What a change
❑X **2272 BLACK JACK LAB** Play all the popular versions of Pontoon
❑X **2278 CARD SHARP** A professionally presented selection of solitaire games.
❑X **2279 SUB ATTACK v1.0** Control the torpedoes & sink the enemy
❑X **2280 DIPLOMACY** Classic strategy game loosely based on World War 1. 2Mb for computer player
❑X **2313 REVENGE OF THE MUTANT CAMELS** The ride of a life time with camels
❑X **2396 PETERS QUEST** This is truly an excellent platform game.
❑X **2411 TOTAL WAR** The board game RISK as reviewed in AF
❑X **2432 GOLDEN OLDIES** Galaga, Galaxians, Space invaders, Asteriods, Batty & Missle Command
❑X **2436 DRAGON TILES v2.5** Mahjong is a ancient chese game where you must remove coloured tiles.
❑X **2447 COINDROP** Fruit Machine simulator with various gamble modes.
❑ **2448 CRAZY SUE** Another first rate cute school girl platform game.
❑ **2450 SMASH TV - THE RIP OFF** Simular to the original arcade machine. With neat grapgics & sound.
❑X **2480 AMOS FRUIT MACHINE II** As near as possible to the fruit machine found in Pubs & Arcades.
❑X **2482 DESCENDER** Is a clone of the classic arcade game Tempest complete with vectorized graphics.
❑X **2483 INTRUDER** is a Multi level Berserk clone with smooth graphics.
❑X **2484 CATACOMB v1.7** A graphical adventure game set on a small island in the middle of the land of EXOUSIA. **NEW**
❑X **2485 IRON CLADS** (1Mb) Update to the excellent Strategic War Game **(2)**
❑X **2491 LEGEND OF LOTHIAN v1.02** is an adventure game in the vein of Ultima
❑X **2494 HUNCHBACK** This is a conversion of the old classic game.
❑X **2498 AMOS CRICKET** Excellent arcade cricket simulator with graphics.
❑X **2534 BATTLE CARS II** Get behind the wheel of a heavily armed car as you race round courses 2 players with the computer link
❑X **2535 SUPER PACK MAN 92** This is the best Pack man to date with super smooth scrolling & excellent graphics.
❑X **2613 DUAL** A 2 player game where you control armoured tanks & rockets.
❑X **2614 TETREN** is a 1 or 2 player Tetris game. 2 player is Head 2 Head
❑X **2615 WAR** Strategy war game in which you control a fleet of space craft.
❑X **2617 GOLDEN OLDIES 2: Croak,** Excellent 1 or 2 player version of Frogger. **MouthMan,** version of packMan. **Bi-Planes,** This is the most additive games we have played here 2 player only. **Trail-Blazer,** CMB 64 Classic. **Scamble**
❑X **2620 DR.MARIO** A Strange Tetris like game where you move coloured pills down the screen. 3 in a row go's
❑X **2621 ETERNAL ROME** Start the roman Empire from 32BC. Build fleets, armies & send them into battle.
❑X **2622 DONKEY KONG** Original platform game in which you must rescue the girl. + Mad Bomber
❑X **2674 INTERPID** In the Artic ice you control a tank on a mission to rescue hostages in this superb Amiga origional
❑X **2676 MORIA v5.4** Loads of new features, better graphics, larger dungeons, screen updates, overview of dungon's map
❑X **2710 CLASH OF THE EMPIRES v2.1** Strategical War Game By T.A.Sear **(2)**
❑X **2712 ACT OF WAR** Simular in style to the classic game Laser Squad. You control a team of special troops.
❑X **2715 TANK ATTACK** This is a 1-4 player version of the Classic Cartridge game Combat. 4 Joysticks can be used
❑X **2716 RESCUE** Space ship game simular to Scrample. Excellent graphics.
❑ **2721 E-TYPE II** Asteriods adventure where you jet around collecting weapons.
❑X **2723 SOLITAIRE** Popular card game on the amiga. Excellent version
❑X **2724 NEIGHBOURS** This is the best graphical adventure game **(2)**
❑ **2732 CYBERNETIX** Defender / Star Gate style game with super fast scrolling
❑X **2738 AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL** You have to try & guide upto 100 planes in this AirPort Simulator.
❑X **2744 FRUITCASH** A game as close to the arcade machines as pos.
❑X **2775 ROULETE ROYAL** Gamle at the casio with this excellent game.
❑X **2778 SOCCER CARD** Very simple Football Management game
❑X **2802 CARD-O-RAMA** Conatins Sea heven, Crib Master, Klondike, Black-jack, Spades, Street & Alleys & Poker
❑X **2803 PUZZLE-O-RAMA** Contains Gold, Dumbbell, Flying, Cobra, Bunny, Get My Goat, Wordhai, Rmyca & Rabbit
❑X **2808 LADY BUG** Another of the old classic games converted for the amiga computer. Excellent fun for all
❑X **2811 WIZZ WAR** The shoot em up with fireballs not fire power. Take the wizard through various Unknown Lands
❑X **2814 BULL RUN v1.3** This is one of the classic strategy games. Very popular
❑X **2825 ALL ROUNDER** Cricket game simulation with great graphics.
❑X **2826 TALISMAN** Citadel Miniatures dwarfs in a shock horror game done in the best possible taste. **(2)**
❑X **2842 CRAZY SUE II** Sequal to the all time best selling PD Game. Excellent platform game
❑X **2843 ROTON** Requies 2 players but is very aditive for people you liked the original thrust.
❑X **2854 SPACE INVAIDERS II** A revised version of that old classic Space Invaiders game.
❑X **2863 FIGHTING WARRIORS** is a karate combat fighting contest game. 1 or 2 players
❑X **2876 ESCAPADE** Object is to to destory bricks in a wall by hitting a ball with a bat, True Break-Out style.
❑X **2932 NUMERIX** If you enjoy puzzles and Tetris then this is a must. You have a scrabble type board & you must place tetris tiles around to get points.
❑X **2933 ASSASSINS GAMES 41** Packman Deluxe, Leap II, tractor Beam, Hellzone 1 and 2.
❑X **2934 ASSASSINS GAMES 42** Contains Galaga 92, Dogs in Space, intruder.
❑X **2935 ASSASSINS 43** Octothello, Roulette, Crossmaze, interlock, leapfrog Puzz and GBoy tetris.
❑X **2936 ASSASSINS 44** Galaxy 89, mouse impossible, Roll on, Rollon Puzzle & Nimmler
❑X **2937 ASSASSINS GAMES 45** DTris, The Brain 2x2, Testre, B castle and parcheese.
❑X **2938 ASSASSINS GAMES 46** Amiga-Q, City, isolation, Checkers, ouch and Atomsmasher
❑X **2941 EXTREME VIOLENCE** The screen scrolls around and are much bigger than Smash TV
❑ **2949 OBLIVION / DEFENDER** Is the closest I have seen to the original defender game.
❑X **2987 BOMB JACKY** Another classic conversion not as good as the original but it's as the best version on the Amiga as yet. How many 64 classics are there.
❑X **2988 BALDERS GROVE** Yes its here a Boulder dash game for the Amiga Plus machines. Excellent selection of levels from easy to hard.

DEJA VU SOFTWARE (£4.99)

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❑X **LP108 FAMILY HISTORY DATABASE v2.0** The improved version with a conversion for people are still using the previous version. **£4.99**
❑X **LP111 STOCK CONTROL v1.0** This program was written with user friendliness in mind. **£4.99**
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❑X **LP115 ROOTS** Another family History program but different from Family History because of the Family Sheet option where most of the data. **£4.99**
❑X **LP118 HDM** If you require a Menu System for your hard drive then this is it. 10 selections per menu and you can have as may menus as you want. **£4.99**
❑X **LP129 TRONI CAD v1.1** The best Cad & Drawning program for the Amiga. **£4.99**

CLIP ART

❑X V419	VIZ
❑X V421	GARFIELD
❑X V497	BEATRIX POTTER
❑X V689	WALT DISNEY
❑X V707	SCALEABLE ART
❑X V864	PRO DRAW
❑X V895	DISNEY COLOUR
❑X CA1	MIXED 1 (5)
❑X CA2	MIXED 2 (5)
❑X CA3	FRUIT (5)
❑X CA5	CHRISTMAS (5)
❑X CA6	MONSTERS (2)
❑X CA7	FLOWERS (2)

STAR TREK & DEMOS

❑X **AT05 KLINGON D7 CRUISER** fires torpedoes while passing by **NCC-1864**
❑X **AT10 ENTERPRICES** Leaves the Star station dock **NCC 1701-A** classic orginal
❑X **AT22 APPROACHING VESSELS,** Animation, Binary Flight Wireframe
❑X **AT23 STAR TREK FLEET MANEUVER** NCC1940 Fly over
❑X **AT33 THE PROBE II** Anim. & **BRID OF PREY**
❑X **AT34 LEAVING SPACE OFFICE** Docking Attack mode, Bird of Prey Scout attacking
❑X **1060 STAR TREK *: TNG** By Terry A. Mc Intosh. v1.47
❑X **1081 UTLTIMATE STAR TREK (2)** Game by Tobias Richter. Now in English
❑X **2222 STAR TREK T.N.G** This is the latest quiz game based on the T.N.G **(2)**
❑ **2501 STAR TREK** By Jimbo Barber. American **1Mb (2) (2dd)**
❑X **2503 STAR TREK** By Eric Gustafson. **1Mb** & **(3) (2dd)**
❑X **2926 STAR TREK THEMES! (2)** This set contains the original sampled version of the Star Trek Theme tunes.
❑X **2879 CULT TV II (2)** This volume features 6 more cult shows from the 60s & early 70s. The Twilight Zone, The man from Uncle, The Saint, Thunderbirds, The Prisoner, and The Persuaders. Features include complete Episode Guides, Indepth backgroud guides, seasons listings, cast and Credits, and Star profiles.
❑X **2884 THUNDERBIRDS ARE GONE! (2)** By Hugh Grove. Excellent animation based around the Thunder birds. 1.5Mb

DEMOS AT THE TOP OF THE CHARTS

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❑ X 2867	TRSI / WICKED SENSATION (2)
❑ @2815	A1200 LAWNMOWER MAN (2)
❑ X 2858	JESUS ON E'S / LSD (2)
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❑ 2977	BIZARRE INC (2) (NEW)
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❑ X 2623	TIME ZONE / TRSI (2)
❑ 2632	TECHNO CONSPIRACY/ MAJIC12
❑ X 2965	TECHNO / INVESTATION (NEW)
❑ X 2870	OLDBULLS / DAMAGE
❑ X 2872	C64 THE DUKE BOX TUNES!
❑ X 2250	ODYSSEY BY ALCATRAZ* (5) 1MB
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❑ 2833	TECHNO TRANCE III
❑ X 2753	HISTORY OF HOUSE MUSIC (2)
❑ X 2871	C64 MEMORYS
❑ X 2962	GRAPEVINE 14 (3) £4.00 (NEW)
❑ X 2986	ACCOUSTIC SILENCE / QUADRIGA

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DISK LABELS 3p Each / Min 50 or ❑ (£)11.99 for 1000. Which Includes P&P
DISK BOXES ❑ 40 **£5.49** ❑ 80 **£8.99**

THE KEY **(LP)** Deja Vu Disk Costs £4.99 **(??)** Title has ?? disks **(?Mb)** Requires ?Mb Amount of memory **(X)** This disk / Title works on WB v2.04+ **(@)** This disk will only work on WB v2.04+ Machines **A1200** - We are now testing the disks.

DART MACHINE
17 BIT 2377
UTIL

If you're a keen darts player, and in particular, one who is not too keen on mental arithmetic, then this one could be useful to you.

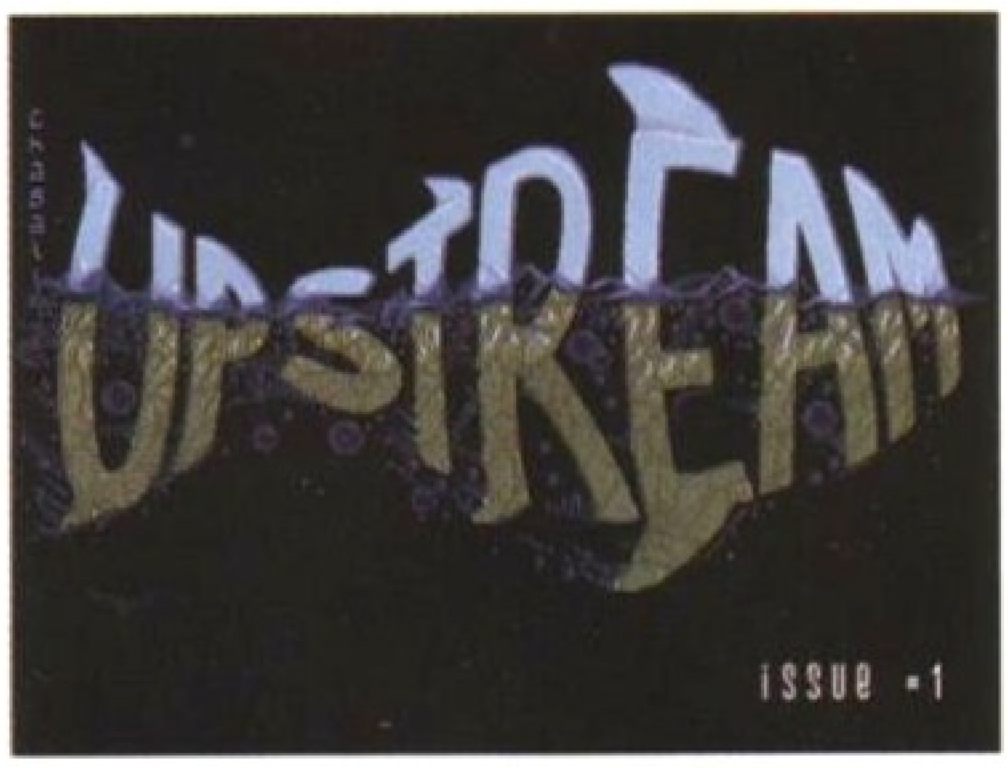
This is an Amiga version of those machines you see in pubs that help you keep score. As the author, Tim Blacklock, puts it, "Fed up with losing count as you try and take 129 from 501? *The Dart Machine* is the answer!" Well, he would, wouldn't he. It not only keeps the score counting down from 501, but it also calculates averages and keeps your best scores.

If you register it with the author, he'll send you version two, which includes several new options including the facility to save and print out your greatest games. The disk also contains the sliding block game *Yawn!*, which is pretty bog standard, except that you can have the blocks marked in European, Arabic or Hindi script. Is this the first multi-ethnic PD game?



"It couldn't get more exciting if Elvis came in, went up to the bar, and ordered a chip butty." (Sid Wadell)

UPSTREAM 1
CYNOSTIC PD D0040
MAG



Swimming against the tide? Find out what's happening in the world of Scandinavian demos.

Here's a new disk mag, that originates from the depths of Norway. It's a totally text-based magazine, but it has an incredibly nice user interface and some good intro graphics. It's concerned mainly with the Demo scene, and the various coders and others associated with it.

All of the stories are written in English, and there are several interesting articles, one in particular about a recent clampdown by the Norwegian police on pirate Bulletin Boards. It's well worth a look if you're interested in finding out who the people behind all of those scrolly messages in demos are.

WORDFINDER PLUS
VIRUS FREE LICENSEWARE CLU 8
TOOL



A quick search for words with the pattern "IER reveals numerous possibilities...**

Wordfinder Plus is a useful tool for crossword freaks. You can search for word patterns, or for anagrams. It's pretty quick, but with it only having a database of 46,319 words, you may miss out on some of the more obscure ones.

BALDER'S GROVE
ANGLIA PD G6054
GAME



Eek! There's some creature behind me! And I don't fancy my chances of escaping from it.

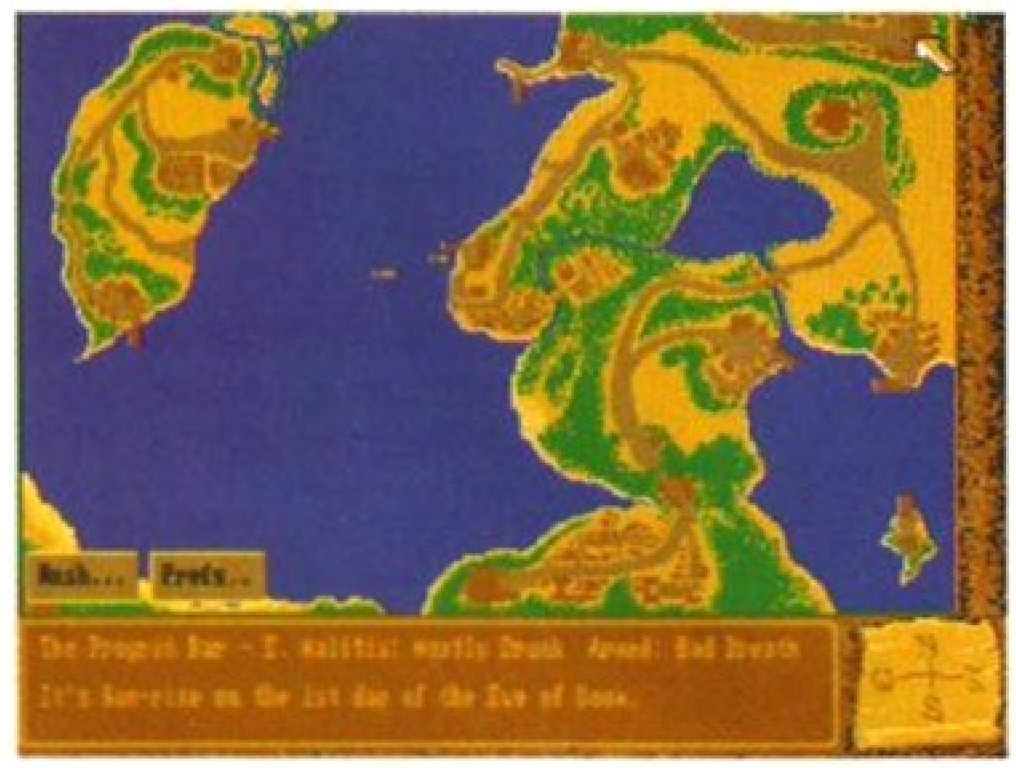
This is the first Workbench 2 or 3-only game that I've seen, but I'm sure it won't be the last. Morgan Antonsson has cloned the old C64 game *Balderdash*, and added a distinct Norse influence. You play the Norse god of light (Balder) in his quest to recover all of the rings. It includes 40 levels and a level editor, so you can set up your own. There are numerous objects lying around, and the game moves rather quickly. This is definitely reminiscent of the C64.

TOPIK 36
PDSOFT V585
TOOL

This disk could be extremely useful for anyone who's into modems and Bulletin Boards, or wants to squash files down to fit on a disk. It contains a collection of file compression utilities, including *LhArc*, *Zoo* and several *PkZip* utilities. Several of the older programs (such as *Zoo*) are difficult to get hold of, but many files on old PD disks or Bulletin Boards are still stored using these type of programs.

Also included is the compression program *LhWarp*, which compresses disks. Many demos are stored on Bulletin Boards in this format, and it's also useful for transmitting entire disks.

THE VIKING SAGA
DEJA VU LICENSEWARE L/127
GAME



No need for any more weapons. A large number of vikings with bad breath can conquer the world...

If you're of a mind to go romping through the countryside and beating up other vikings, then this may be of interest to you. There's this bad guy who wants to take over your patch, so in order to oppose him, you have to take control of all 12 settlements.

A bloke has sent you 1,000 men and loads of gold, which you've decided to keep for yourself. Anyway, you've got to beat-up your opponents, and fortunately you've now got 1,000 mates to give you a hand.

TOP 10 UTILITIES OF THE MONTH

Every month we print a chart of the Top 10 games and programs from a popular PD library. This month, we peruse the bestseller list of....

VIRUS FREE PD

1.	Dcopy 2
2.	Fixdisk
3.	Kick 1.3
4.	Printer Drivers
5.	Numpad (A600 only)
6.	IBM Emulator
7.	Text Engine 4
8.	Engineers Kit
9.	View v3.2 (for HAM 8 anims)
10.	Canon Studio

WHERE TO GET THE DISKS IN THIS ISSUE

17 BIT SOFTWARE: 1st Floor Offices, 2/8 Market St, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 1GH. 0924 366982

DEJA VU: 7 Hollinbrook, Beech Hill, Wigan, WN6 7SG. 0942 495261

CYNOSTIC PD: 85 Wyken Croft, Coventry, CV2 3AD. 0203 613817

ANGLIA PD: 115 Ranleigh Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 7HU. 0394 283494

VIRUS FREE PD: 31 Faringdon Road, Swindon, Wilts, SN2 2LS. 0793 512073

SOFTWARE EXPRESSIONS: 44 Beauley Road, Southville, Bristol, BS3 1PY. 0272 639593

PD SOFT: 1Bryant Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2YD. 0702 612259/466933

PD Demo Zone



Bored? Lifeless? Not feeling chipper and dandy? Why not join **Andy Nuttall** and **Richard Baguley** as they sift through some of the latest demonstrations of what your Amiga can do...

DEMON DOWNLOAD

DEMO

TELESCAN, TWO DISKS



The Silents meet Aleister Crowley, resulting in lots of demonic references and this rather, erm, serious chap.

The Silents' new demo, curiously entitled *Demon Download*, is strange. A stonking soundtrack, with excellent bass and drum samples, threatens to blow your monitor speakers while the screen displays various images – including an eerie face crying blood, as pictured here.

Other Beelzebub-type references include the number 666 on the front of an Amiga, and a hideous, er, scrolly wavy message. Anyway it's great fun, and there's a free game (*Poo-Poo Dreams*) thrown in for good measure.

ANOTHER BORING YEAR

DEMO

NBS

I'm not sure that the title fits this particular demo – I mean OK, all the symptoms of every other megademo are here, but the music is excellent.

Along with some fine graphics, Syntex have put together a worthy addition to the range of Amiga megademos, but this one is apparently coded using *AMOS*. Good grief.



Although this is strictly a megademo, this exceptional style of artwork is thrown in for good measure.

If ever there was an example of the versatility of *AMOS*, this is it – glenz vector cubes, superb graphic images and clear samples (the musician credits French coder Moby, and the style is quite different to the usual megademo prog-rock style, in fact it's similar to much of Moby's work). A lot of work has gone into the presentation. If you have *AMOS*, either commercially or from our Coverdisk (***AF***42), then get this demo and discover another possibility opened up by *AMOS*.

A TASTE OF U4IA

DEMO

CYNOSTIC PD, DISK S0057



A nicely presented music demo, with some exploding heads in it. Er, that last bit was a lie, it's just music really.

Musician Jim Young is no newcomer to Amiga music, examples of his work appear in various incarnations all over the world, but he is a newcomer to the PD Demo scene. After hearing this disk originally, we reckoned that his music was pretty good, so we persuaded him to send it to Cynostic PD – and now here it is.

His band is called U4ia, and after getting together with coder Lioth and artists Danc and Ramchip, A Taste of U4ia was born. The five tracks form 25 minutes of music, crammed into one disk, and range from the Propaganda-esque *Je Ne Sais Pas* to *Astronaut's Requiem*, and it's similar in style to Tomita (he's a Japanese version of Jean Michel Jarre).

Only one track is slightly dodgy, the interestingly titled *This Heart Beats 4 U*, which boasts some excellent metal-clang samples, but a horribly twee top-line. The other tracks make up for this and we can look forward to more of U4ia's work in the future.

HARDLY AN ORIGINAL...

DEMO

CYNOSTIC PD, DISKS A0027



The lemming with the big hair offers up a challenge to big Arnie – if he doesn't trip over his dress first...



...but before that he has to get past big M. That's M for Monolith, which is just about to drop on his head.

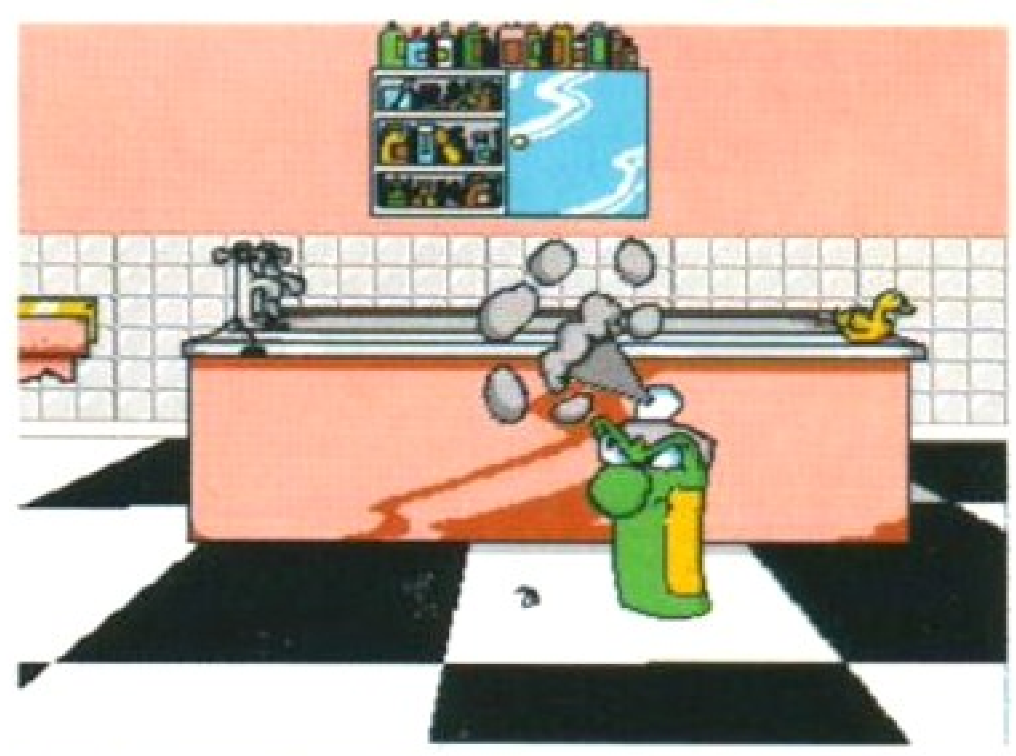
Call me a boring old whatever if you will, but the idea of crossing a lemming with the cult science-fiction film *2001* never occurred to me. However, it did occur to Kevin Rochowski, and the result is his excellent animation titled '*Hardly An Original Subject For a Demo*' (subtitled '*I had my lunch at 20.01, which was rather late*').

It concerns the adventures of one of those popular Amiga creatures: a lemming (yes, another one) which evolves from a patch of mud, then makes its way across a barren wasteland, narrowly avoiding being squashed by a falling safe, before encountering a huge black monolith. Quite what one of these is doing in the desert I don't know, but we'll skip that point for now. The background scenery is *Vista* generated, the animation is nicely hand-drawn, and the storyboard has been well thought out. Recommended.

CAN IT

DEMO

17-BIT, DISK 2314



Alvin demonstrates his new line in interactive headwear – he's concentrating on making it ozone friendly...

Continued on Page 170

United Public Do

Look out for the CLR logo!

The innovators

THE BEST SELECTION OF PD IN THE UK !

GAMES

PG003 AIR WARRIOR Good flight Sim + (not A600!)
PG006 ANTEP & SLOT CARS role playing game+ Y
PG008 ASI 1 Tanx, Rollerpede, Avatris Amigoids etc+
PG009 ASI 2 Invaders,Bally 2,Missile command etc!+
PG010 ASI 3 Megaball & Drip Superb !+
PG011 ASI 4 Frogger Go Moku,Cracker Jumpy etc!+
PG012 ASI 5 Raid, Go Looly & Retaliator+
PG013 ASI 6 Pacman Downhillchallenge Welltrix etc!+
PG014 ASI 7 Moonbase, Trix,Nightworks Clauderunner!+
PG015 ASI 8 Airace2,Hball,Snakepit & Numberfumbler!+
PG016 ASI 9 Features Battie pong & Blizzard! +
PG017 ASI 10 Escape, Pipeline, Pickout & Sys!+
PG018 ASI 11 Dad, Connex,Reversi Towers & Trippin+
PG019 ASI 12 Llamatron, Car, Powerpong. Fab!!+
PG020 ASI 13 Twintris, Squamble,Block it,Ball etc!+
PG021 ATIC ATAC Really playable ! + Y
PG024 BLACKJACK Good card game !+
PG026 CASTLE OF DOOM Excellent! Get it + Y
PG028 COLOSSUS & WORLD Fab adventures !+ Y
PG029 CROSSWORD COMPILER As it says !+ Y
PG032 DRAGONS CAVE D&D style game Mega+ Y
PG034 ETERNAL ROME Strategy & DOMINOES+ Y
PG046 HACK Great text adventure-infocom style! +Y
PG047 HOLLYWOOD TRIVIA Nice Trivia Game! +
PG048 HOLY GRAIL One of the best Text adventures+ Y
PG053 LARN A superb text adventure game + Y
PG059 LORE OF CONQUEST space trading D&D game Y
PG062 MENTAL IMAGE 1 Gridrunner invaders & rebound+
PG068 NO MANS LAND Hi tech war game-shoot em up. +Y
PG071 POM POM GUNNER Like beach-head on the 64+Y
PG072 PROPERTY MARKET Become a millionaire !!!
PG074 RETURN TO EARTH Elite space trading game! +Y
PG076 SEVEN TILES Speedball type game-MEGA!
PG079 SEALANCE A submarine strategy game +Y
PG094 TRAIN CONSTRUCTION KIT make own tracks+Y
PG101 THE INSIDERS CLUB Stocks & shares game
PG108 ASI 14 ChinaChallenge2 & Amiga Columns!+
PG110 SUPER SKODA CHALLENGE Nice car racegame!+Y
PG121 A500+ GAMES PACK 21 games to run on a plus+Y
PG124 TOTAL WAR Great new Risk type game,ok plus!+Y
PG127 AIRMANIA Super platform game from Addware + Y
PG131 ATLANTIS A nice looking strategy game! +Y
PG132 ASI 15 Battlecars Lettrix & Mambamove!
PG133 ASI 16 Wastelands, Mission X, Pacman +
PG134 ASI 17 Tomcat, Defenda, Jetman Bugblaster+
PG135 ASI 18 Henry in Panic Skyflyer Omega race!+
PG136 ASI 19 Growth,FranticFreddy,Biplane & more!+
PG138 BATTLE OF BRITAIN & WAR strategy war games+Y
PG139 DUNGEONS OF MADROJ Excellent D&D game+Y
PG140 MIND GAMES Stacks of fun with this !Y
PG141/3 SWORD OF WARLOCK RPG adventure 2drives
PG146 ASI 20 Microbes Hollywood trivia Coin drop +
PG149 A NIGHT AT THE TOWN Witty text adventure+Y
PG153 WAR very good strategy/arcade game+Y
PG155 ASI GAMES 21 Zeus Tettrix Battlements Dragntiles+
PG156 ASI GAMES 22 Lemmingoids,Wizzys quest Duel etc+
PG157 ASI GAMES 23 Quick money,BIP,Interferon Arcadia+
PG164 GAME TAMER 2.3 joystick tester & 268 cheats+Y
PG166 RAID III Wicked new shootemup !!!! +Y
PG167 SERENE III From the author of Raid !!!+Y
PG169 ASI GAMES 24 Revenge Dux Croak 3d maze etc!+
PG170 ASI GAMES 25 Mr Brick,Copper,hemeroids,E Type+
PG171 ASI GAMES 26 Superpacman 92 Smash tv Ashido
PG172 ASI GAMES 27 Addictive card games. Really good!+
PG174 AMOS CRICKET Shareware cricket game,1 or 2plr+
PG175 SPACETRAX 2 player shoot each other up game+Y
PG176 TECHNOBAN GAME Quite a nice puzzle game! +Y
PG177 HELLZONE Stunning R-type clone-GET THIS! +
PG178 MENTAL IMAGE 2 Three Excellent new games +
PG181 STRIKEBALL Baseball type game done in Amos +Y
PG182 ETHOS Simple graphical adventue Sinbad style+Y
PG183 CATACOOMBS great D&D style game. VG.GFX +Y
PG184 FATAL MISSION Very good Shootemup game +
PG186 ASI 28 Doody, DrMario, Invaders2, Madbomber2+
PG187 ASI 29 DOG, Rome, Nova, B-Bal, Atax, Quadrix+
PG188 ASI 30 Bounce & Blast, Total Fire Tank attack!+
PG189 SPACE RESCUE Super scramble like shoot em up!+
PG190 TOP SECRET An exellent quality platform game!+
PG191 ACT OF WAR New space strategy game! +Y
PG193 MASHIE NIBLICK Yes,a golf game for your Amiga+Y
PG195 KLAKTRIS Suberb quality tetris type game!+
PG197 ANDYS AMOS GAMES 6 good games on here!+Y
PG198 AIRPORT Now you control an airport! +
PG199 CASHFRUIT Nice fruit machine game! +Y
PG200 ALL ROUNDER CRICKET New cricket game!+Y
PG202/3 IRON CLADS Good strategic war game!(2)Y
PG204 THRALLBOUND Text adventure with graphics!+Y
PG205 SOCCER CARDS Football managing game!+Y
PG206 ASI 31 Arazmaz,Crazy pipe, revolution etc!+
PG207 ASI 32 Blob, Sector one & Firefighter! +
PG208 ASI 33 Hyperball & War! +
PG209 ASI 34 Trailblazer, Yelp, Qbic Rushour! +
PG210 ASI 35 Poing, Snakepit, Cybernetix etc!+
PG211 ASI 36 Mother lode, Wonderland, Kong etc!+
PG212 ASI 37 Klaktris, Ghostship, Paccer etc!+
PG213 ASI 38 One on One,Baldy,Skyflyer2,Transplant!
PG214 LEGEND OF LOTHIAN Superb Ultima type game!!+Y
PG215 ASI 39 Lots of card games on this disk! +
PG216 ASI 40 Disk full of sliding puzzle games!+
PG217 ASI 41 Pacman deluxe, Hellzone Leap II etc+
PG218/9 CLASH OF THE EMPIRES Super strategy!+ Y

EDUCATION

All ok on A1200!
PE001/5 EDUCATION SET science programs for ages 11+ +
PE006 KIDSPAINT Fab little talking colouring book+
PE007/8 LEARN & PLAY Maths, spelling stc. 5-10 yrs +
PE009 STORYLAND 2 Save toyland from the witch! +
PE010 TOTAL CONCEPTS ASTROMOMY Book on a disk.+
PE011 TOTAL CONCEPTS DINOSAURS Book on a disk+
PE013 SIMON & SPACE MATHS Talking maths program
PE014 SPANISH, FRENCH, GERMAN TUTOR Translator +
PE015 TREASURE SEARCH find the lost treasure ! +
PE016 COLOUR THE ALPHABET learn letters & colours! +
PE018 TYPING TUTOR, Superspell Budget & Mscalender! +
PE019 DUNKS DTP A sort of DeskTopPublisher for kids +
PE020 MATHS DRILL Good maths disk for the young! +
PE021/4 SCIENCE Very good four disk set!+ (4)
PE025 FRACTIONS & SILHOUETTES Good maths tutor+ Y
PE026 WW II FACTS Good historical program!+ Y
PE027 AMIGA BEGINNER Learn to use your machine+ Y

BUSINESS

All ok on A1200 except PB006!!
PB001 AMICASH bank management program+
PB002/3 ANALYTICALC Superb spreadsheet!+ (2)
PB004 ASI LABEL PRINTERS 3 of the best+
PB005 BANKIN control your cheque book! +
PB006 BUSINESS CARD MAKER Nice program+
PB007 CLERK Complete accounts package+
PB008 DESKTOP PUBLISHER Simple to use +
PB009 FLEXYBASE DATABASE Address keeper+
PB010 JOURNAL Keep track of finances
PB011 MISC.BUSINESS Geotime, Grocery list, Calc
PB012 QBASE Simple 8 field database
PB013 QED Simple & effective text ed+
PB014 RIM DATABASE Fully relational !!+
PB015 TEXTPLUS V3.00 The BEST Wordprocessor +
PB017 VISICALC SPREADSHEET Simple to use+
PB019 BUSINESS LETTERS contracts, letters + more+
PB020 TEXT ENGINE 3.4 NEW Version !!! +
PB021 AMIBASE PRO. Powerful easy to use Dbase +
PB022 BBASE II v5.5 A fast & easy to use database+
PB023 FORMS REALLY UNLIMITED form creation prog+
PB024 LAST WILL & TESTAMENTS Just in case !+
PB025 EDWORD Brand new wordpro - V.good +
PB026 AGRAPH Superb Program graphing data +
PB027 BOILERPLATE Business letters & Wordpro +
PB028 LITTLE OFFICE Intergrated Wpro,Sst,Dbase,Gfx+
PB029 ADDRESS PRINT Good label printing program! +
PB030 THE MONEY PROGRAM Home accounting! +

UTILITIES

(Note: "Y" = ok on A1200!)
PU002 A-GENE Good geneology program + Y
PU004a/b A64 EMULATOR NEW VERSION 2.0 (2)
PU005 AMATEUR RADIO 1 Interest to radio hams + Y
PU012 ASI GRAFFIX UTILS graphics convertors etc+Y
PU013 ASI BOOT UTILITIES bootblock utilities + Y
PU015 BIORYTHMS, STARCHART 2 Good programs+ Y
PU021 C-LIGHT RAY TRACER Good program+ Y
PU022 CHEMESTHETICS molecule displayer + Y
PU036 CURSER BASIC COMPILER Just what you need!+ Y
PU037 D-COPY The best PD disk copier & more + Y
PU039 DBW The foreunner to Skulpt 3D !!! + Y
PU047 DOPE INTROMAKER Make your own intros
PU048 DYNAMITE FONTS II CutNPaste fontscreens Y
PU049 DYNAMITE FONTS More CutNPaste Fonts Y
PU055 ELECTROCAD DEMO circuit designer +
PU056 EXILE FONTS Excellent CnP fonts+
PU058 FONTS AND RAM MANAGER BIG video fonts+
PU059 FONTS & SURFACES Backdrops & fonts+ Y
PU062 GRAPHICS UTILITIES Various misc. programs+Y
PU063 HAMLAB Convert VGA PC >IFF/HAM + Y
PU064 HARDDRIVE UTILS MRBackup & FixDisk & more+Y
PU065 ICONMANIA Program icons & more !+ Y
PU066 ICONS Cramm packed with icons !+ Y
PU067 IMPLODER V4.0 Megacrunching Util+ Y
PU071 JR COMM 1.02 Modem users comms package Y
PU072 METALLION UTILS Font Editors & more utils+ Y
PU073/76 KING JAMES BIBLE Old&New testaments (4)+ Y
PU078 M-CAD Hires design package. Excellent + Y
PU080 MESSY-SID Read/Write PC Files, Brilliant!+ Y
PU083 MORSE PROGRAMS for the radio hams. Y
PU086/7 NORTH C 1.3 (2) Complete C compiler & libs+ Y
PU088 NORTH C 1.3 This is the packed 1 disk version!+Y
PU089 PASCAL COMPILER needs good CLI knowledge+ Y
PU091 PENDLE 200 MEGAUTILS An essential collection+ Y
PU095 PRINTER DRIVER GENERATOR & new drivers+ Y
PU096 PRINTER DRIVER UTILITIES Various utils etc. Y
PU097 PRINT STUDIO V1.25 Prints pics & text etc.+ Y
PU108 ROT A simple 3D drawing package.Very popular.+Y
PU109/10 (2 disk) Structured clipart for Ppage + Y
PU112/3 SOMETHING FOR NOTHIN Video Utils&Fonts+ Y
PU115 ST EMULATOR Run Atari ST software !! 2 Drives
PU117 SUPERKILLERS Virus Killers! You need this! +
PU121/2 TV GRAPHICS Dpaint backdrops&Fonts+(2) Y
PU124 ULTIMATE ICONS Iconmaster,Iconlab,+ Y
PU129/30 VIDEO APPLICATIONS Video utilities+ Y
PU136 ZX SPECTRUM EMULATOR Now with sound +
PU139 GRAPHICS CONVERTERS PC>AMiga gfx Converter
PU140 LITTLEBENCH File copier & utils Dos2 only
PU141/2 TAROT II Learn about your stars !+ Y
PU143 OPTIUTILS 1 Crammed full ! Get it+ Y
PU144 OPTIUTILS 2 Get this disk too ! + Y
PU145 OPTICOMMS 1 Ncomm 1.921 Lharca, Zoo Arc+ Y
PU149 ELECTRONIC PROTOTYPER Veroboard designer Y
PU150 FOOTBALL LEAGUE ED Update league positions Y
PU151 BROTHERHOOD UTILS 1 Dcopy,Scenery,Qed +Y
PU152/66 CLIPART SET: 15 Disks of the BEST clipart +Y
PU167 MULTI-PLOT Superb data plotting program ! +
PU169 GELIGNITE FONTS CutNPaste fonts+
PU170 P-SUITE Disk magazine maker+Y
PU171 OPTICOMMS 2 Ncomm 2 & more +Y
PU172 WORDPOWER Solve Anagrams/Crosswords+ Y
PU174 ASTRO 22 professional astrology now V2.42! +Y
PU175 GELIGNITE FONTS II Excellent IFF fonts+Y
PU176 GELIGNITE FONTS III More of above!!+
PU177/8 BENCHMASTER Windowsbench & Messysid!!
PU182 STOCK ANALYST Technical analysis program+Y
PU183 AMYGEN Excellent geneology program+Y
PU184 PROCALC V1.0 professional calculator!
PU185/8 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS (4) Packed with fonts+Y
PU189 TRONIK VIRUS KILLERS 21 virus killers & docsY
PU191 LANDBUILDER fractal land generator+Y
PU192 SID 2 Get this ! directory util !!!! MEGA!+Y
PU197 MOBED 2 Dpaint for Sprites & bobs+Y
PU198 VIDEO WIPES Masks & fades Dpaint 3/4 +Y
PU201 MALICE FONTS Excellent tiny fonts for Dpaint+
PU202 CYCLOPS Weird Plasma/fractal creator ! +Y
PU203 SCOPE 184 utils & clips for Ppage Y
PU205 PC TASK Wicked PC Emulator Get it !!! +Y
PU207 MULTISID Combine SID2 & Multidos(PC>AMIGA)+Y
PU208 ASI HANDYTOOLS 3 mega compilation of utils Y
PU209 FRED FISH CATALOGUE contains FISH 1 - 680 +Y
PU210 PCQ PASCAL Latest version of Pascal compiler+Y
PU211 AMIGA PUNT A horse race predicting program!+Y
PU212 PERM CHECK PLUS a pools prediction prog Y
PU213 RACE RATER Another horse racing program!! +Y
PU214 DIR WORK A Sid type file copying program! +Y
PU215 CAPTIONATOR Superb shareware video titling!+Y
PU217 BROTHERHOOD UTILS 2 utilities for the plus!+ Y
PU219 WBHACKS+ collection of hacks for + owners+ Y
PU221-225 8 COLOR ICONS Hundreds of new icons +Y
PU226/7 C-EYES FONTS For use in Dpaint, WB, etc.(2)+Y
PU228 PROBABLY RIPPER Create disks easily with this!+Y
PU229 JPEG 24 bit graphics compression util disk! +Y
PU230 MORE PRINTER DRIVERS new printer drivers!+Y
PU231/5 PAGESTREAM FONTS 5 disks super fonts!+ (5)Y
PU236/7 SCOPE197/8 Adobe type fonts, 2 disks full! +Y
PU238/9 M.O.R.C. Mouse operated rune caster,oracle !+
PU240 FREECOPY V1.4 powerful disk copying program!+Y
PU241 CALORIE BASE Useful for people on a diet!+Y
PU242 TEXTPLUS PROFESSIONAL 4 needs hard drive!+Y
PU243 ASPICE Circuit analysis program!+Y
PU244 BON APPETIT This is a recipe database program!+Y
PU245/256 C MANUAL Latest version on 12 disks! (12) +Y
PU257/61 PAGESTREAM FONTS 2nd set of fonts!+Y
PU262 RICHARD SMEDLEY COMP II Mortgages etc!+Y
PU263 LYAPUNOV Fabulous & unusual fractals!!+Y
PU264/8 OUTLINE FONTS For Pro pagev3 ONLY!!+Y
PU269 CONSTELLATION Demo of shareware program!+Y
PU270 STARCAT2 Easy to use cataloge maker!+ Y
PU271 CLUMPY ICONS A disk crammed with icons+ Y
PU272 GOLF RECORDER Database for golf scores!+ Y
PU273 PC<>AMIGA Similar to Messysid, + docs!+ Y
PU274 TRONICAD V1.0 Electronic circuit design!+Y
PU275 FLIT Convert Autodesk anims to IFF+
PU276 BBBS A Bulletin board system! + Y
PU277 PROTEUS BBS Another comms program! + Y

ANIMATIONS

PA039 ERIC-S AMY VS WALKER Cute & sexy! 1.5M Y
PA040 ERIC-S BATMAN vs JOKER Very funny!!!+Y
PA042 ERIC-S COYOTE STRIKES BACK 1mg too! +
PA043 ERIC-S MORE AEROTOONS Very witty !!!+ Y
PA045 ERIC-S STEALTHY II Mig-29 vs Stealthy !+Y
PA046 FRANKLYN THE FLY Day in the life of a fly! +
PA048 GYMNAST ANIM Gymnast swings on bars! +Y
PA053/4 LIGHT CYCLES (2) Tron animation+
PA056 MAGICIAN II Good RT animation+Y
PA072 THE JUGGLER A classic amiga demo!+ Y
PA074 THE WALKER vs The Helicopter - Mega !+ Y
PA075 THE WALKER vs A2000 A classic ! + Y
PA085 JET ANIMATION Fractal Flight but better! +Y
PA086 FRACTAL ANIMATION full screen low flying anim+Y
PA090 TOO MUCH 3D Ship flys out of monitor!! + Y
PA091/3 GAS TURBINE, STEAM & PETROL ENGINE (3)+Y
PA094 AMY JOGS,WALKS & SNEEZES by E Schwartz! +Y
PA095 HOW TO RUN INTO A WALL by Eric Schwartz! +Y
PA097 SMALL STATION AT KHERNE New 1mg version+Y
PA099 ATF AGILITY new ES anim, very witty as usual+Y
PA100 VTOL CONTEST Check out this new ES anim ! +Y
PA101 DOLPHIN DREAMS Great Dolphin anim! + Y
PA103/4 KINGFISHER 2 Superb bird animations!+ Y

AGATRON

All ok on A1200!
AGA01 RED LOTUS Spinning down the road. Fantastic !+
AGA03 STAR TREK - Shuttle fly past - Great ! 1m +
AGA09 STAR WARS - Fighter fly by, impressive 1m +
AGA10 STAR TREK - Enterprise in dry dock. Incredible+
AGA20 Huey 2 A helicopter leaving a landing pad.+
AGA23 FLEET MANOEVRE Stunning animation! 1m +
AGA24 KULI PEN animation & Ping pong. Great! 1m +
AGA25 THE RUN , a suberb car chase 1mg +
AGA31 PORSCHE anim rising out of table 1 mg. +
AGA33 PROBE Bird of prey animation & Klingonhit! 1m+
AGA35 SPACE PROBE, great anim of probe zooming off!+
AGA36 BIRD OF PREY, loop the loop animation 1m +
AGA37 TOBIAS GOES KNACKERS - Check this out ! 1m +
AGA38 TOTALLY WICKED ! Shuttle & Enterprise (2 MEG)]
AGA39/53 AGATRON SPECIAL! Yes, a 15 disk anim!+Y
AGA54/62 AGATRON SPECIAL! a 9 disk anim, fans only+Y

POWERANIMS

PP001/2 ANTI LEMMINGS (2) This is Brilliant! 2M
PP003 AT THE MOVIES Cute anim of Amy squirrel 1.5M+Y
PP008/10 BUZZED (3) Great anim of wasp crashing! 2M
PP011/12 DATING GAME (2) Very witty!, Get it. 3.5M!
PP016 GULF WAR Another ES production! Good 2M! Y
PP021/24 LANDING (4) Tobias Richter poweranim 4M!
PP025/27 STATION AT KHARN (3) Incredible 2M demo Y
PP040/43 AT THE MOVIES II (4) Hilarious ! 1mg>3mg
PP044/45 AMY V WALKER II (2) Another witty ES demo 3M
PP046 SWEET REVENGE Coyote vs Roadrunner ! 1.5mg+Y
PP050 UNSPORTING Wicked aerotoon by Schwartz+ 2M Y
PP051/2 CHARLY CAT Super Shwartzlike cartoon! 2mg.Y
PP053/4 CHARLY CAT AT THE BEACH 2nd fab anim 2mg!Y
PP055/6 APC MISSION Superb walker & tank battle 3mg!
PP057/9 CHARLY CAT CATCHES A CANARY Fab! 3MG.
PP060/3 CHARLY CAT MOUSTERMIND Great! 3.5MG.
PP064 DUNCAN DUNG BEETLE Unusual 2mg animation! Y
PP065/6 CHARLY CAT SNOWJOKE Latest anim 2mg.+ Y
PP067/9 SPEED LIMIT 3mg motorcycle race! + Y (3)
PP070/1 LEMMINGS REVENGE Very amusing anim! 2mg Y
PP072/3 TALES OF A TIME TRAVELLER Super movie 3mg!

DEMOS

PD005 AMOS 3D DEMO Shows some great effects!+ Y
PD018 CHAOS ROCK Fab light show with fractals!+
PD068 PHENOMENA ENIGMA Absolutely brilliant!+ Y
PD094 SCOOPEX MENTAL HANGOVER A classic+
PD097 SILENTS GLOBAL TRASH Incredible!!+
PD130/34 ALCATRAZ ODDESSY Awesome!! Ok on 500+!
PD139 TRACKERS POWER & AGONY Unusual vectors! +
PD142 FINAL CONFESSION Music & Plasma effects!+ Y
PD159 ANARCHY IN THE KITCHEN Some good FX Fab!+
PD164 DESIRE MENACE Good Psycho rave demo + Y
PD165 DARK DEMON Mega new demo .... get it+ Y
PD170 PIECE OF MIND Good 3D vector effects. +
PD171/2 SILENTS EXPOSE(2) Incredible Get it !+ Y
PD175 REFLECT SOUND VISION Super effects & music!
PD176 CHAMELEON DEMO Very nice vector demo!+ Y
PD177/8 TRSI TIME ZONE New, some good effects!+Y
PD179/80 HALF BRAINS SUNSTORM Very good demo!+

MUSIC DISKS

PM001 100 GREATEST 64 TUNES 100 fab 64 tunes!+
PM010 AMEGA PARTY WINNERS Four WICKED songs+ Y
PM012 AMIGADEUS CLASSICAL Eine Kleiner etc. + Y
PM016 BEATLES SONIX Nice music + Y
PM022/23 CLASSICAL MUSIC Bach, Handel etc +Y
PM027 D-MOB MUSIC 3 House music remix, good! +
PM030/34 DIGITAL CONCERTs 2-6 Excellent house/dance
PM035 DIGITAL DEBUSSY Fab Rob Baxter conversions!+Y
PM036 DIGITAL DEBUSSYII classic Debussy music!+ Y
PM058 MAG FIELDS CHIP FESTIVAL Full of chip music!+Y
PM059 MANIACS OF NOISE This is brilliant!+
PM082a/82b VIVALDI - FOUR SEASONS (2) V.Good !+ Y
PM090/91MOZART HORN CONCERTO 4 by H.Gammon+ Y
PM092 PIANO TUNES Nine piano songs- good + Y
PM096 STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN Rendition of the song+ Y
PM105/6 KEFRENS MEGAMIX Fabulous dance music+
PM114 UPROAR SPLIT BEAVER MIX rave megamix + Y
PM115a/b CHROME Brilliant music disks ! Y
PM121 NIGHTBREED MUSIC DEMO8 Rave music demo+ Y
PM122/4 PLAYSID 2 (3) You must get this !!!!! +Y
PM125 PLAYSID inc.RobHubbard, ManiacsOfNoise + Y
PM137 KEFRENS MEGAMIX II Very good !! dance music!+
PM141 HARDLINE MUSIC 7 groovy synth-style tracks+Y
PM150 DESKTOP HARPSICHORD RECITAL Classics! + Y
PM152 PARADISE: NO BRAIN NO PAIN Good for ravers!! +
PM153 BIZE: KILL DA BABE 6 tracks of rave music!! +
PM154 PULSE Yes, pulsating rave music again!! + Y
PM155 VINE G-RAVE 5 more good rave tracks!!! +Y
PM157/8 HEATBEAT UPDATE 9 great songs here!+ Y
PM159 DECIBEL OVERLOAD 5 different tunes!+ Y
PM160 FUSION MATRIX 5 rave type tracks!+ Y
PM161 CYBERNETIX 19 songs packed on 1 disk!+
PM162 MORE MED TUNES Fab tunes by Alex Starrex!+Y
PM163 OCTASTUFF Some good 8 track tunes! + Y
PM164 OCTAROCK 3D More 8 track & 3d graphics!+Y
PM165/6 NUTCRACKER SUITE Super rendition!+ Y

SLIDESHOWS

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PS008 AIRCRAFT SLIDE Pics of fighter aircraft!+Y
PS009 ASTRONOMY SLIDE very impressive !+Y
PS013 BORN TO BE FREE wild animals +Y
PS033 GERMAN RAY TRACE Superb See these !+
PS045 KELLY S/S Some quality HAM pictures.+Y
PS056 NEWTEK DYNAMIC HAM 640x512 4096 color pics+
PS062 NW DYNAMIC HAM Nik Williams Superb quality.+
PS067 RICK PARK'S ART Dpaint hires pics! + Y
PS072 SUPER HAM CARS This is a must-Mega!+ Y
PS086 SONIC 5 Superb D-HAM 4096 colour pics+
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PS093 VANISH 3D Awesome 3d ray traced +Y
PS094 INVISIBLE WORLD II Yuk Bedbugs And more!+Y
PS101 ANALOGUE SLIDE Ray traced space pics + Y
PS102 ACCESS DESIGN Ray traced space pics +
PS103 DYNAMIC HIRES 2, 4 fantastic quality pictures!+
PS104 VGA PICS Some exellent quality pictures here!+Y
PS105 SCAN PICS Exellent quality pictures!+Y
PS106 BAHRAIN SLIDES Pics from the middle east!+
PS107 ALCATRAZ MUSEUM 18 super quality drawings!+
PS108 SANITY COMP WINNERS 10 Superb drawings!+ Y

MUSIC UTILS

PT001 ALGORYTHMS Create weird midi tunes
PT002 ART OF MED Excellent !+ Y
PT005 CASIO CZ EDITOR 250 patches ! +
PT006 DELUXE MUSIC DATA Midi music+ Y
PT009 K1 IFF SAMPLES Fabulous samples +
PT011 KAWAI K1 editor for patch changes!
PT012 KAWAI K4 editor as above!
PT013 MED 3.2 Excellent music seq. + Y
PT014 MED MUSIC DISK As it says !+ Y
PT015 MIDI DISK Various midi stuff +
PT020 ST-01 - ST-10 Samples--Ring for details
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PT022 SOUNDTRACKER COMPILATION Several versions!
PT025/6/7/8 ST-90-93 SAMPLES Studio quality+ Y
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PT030 YAMAHA DX7 VOICE SORTER for the above !
PT031/2/3 ST-87 - 89 3 disks full !+Y
PT034/5 ST-97 & 98 More samples !+Y
PT037 PROTRACKER 2.2 THE LATEST VERSION!!
PT038 YAMAHA DX100,TX81Z, DX27,DX11 & FB01 editors
PT040 OCTAMED V1 8 channel MED sequencer!+
PT041 NOISEPLAYER 4.0 Multitasking module player+
PT042 START IFF SAMPLES Superb ! Get this disk!+Y
PT043/5 HOUSE SAMPLES 3 disks full of house samples!
PT046 AUDIO MAGIC3 Super trackers disk, ok on 1200+Y

AMOS PD

APD036 AMOS UPATER Latest updater !!! v1.34 + Y
APD115 BALLOONACY Bomb the buildings !+ Y
APD237 SHAPES Excellent kids game !+Y
APD257 CASSETTE LABELLER + MIXED SOURCE+Y
APD271 WIZARDS DOMAIN graphical adventure+Y
APD292 WAR OF THE FOUR graphic adventure game+Y
APD329 FRUIT MACHINE Good for the gamblers !+Y
APD347 NOTEBOOK & SHOPPING LIST Easy to use !+ Y
APD363 FAMILY HISTORY DATABASE Latest version!+Y
APD373 COMPILER 1.34 UPDATE Amos compiler !+

NEW!

PU278 GELIGNITE FONTS IV Yes more Iff fonts!
PU279 V MORPH Yes finally a PD morphing prog!!+ Y
PU280 POOLS WIZARD Pools prediction,save disabled+Y
PU281 PEGASUS WORKBENCH HACKS silly hacks+Y
PU282 ASI MULTIVISION 2 Imagelab,Wasp & more,super+Y
PG220 MICROMARKET V1.1 Good stock& shares game! +Y
PG221 OXYD Roll marble to different stations! + Y
PG222 3SHOOT UPS Megarace,Spaceattack 1 & 2! +Y
PG223 PUMPING DUDE Pump fuel on a space station+Y
PG224 THE LOST OCCREST Collect the keys game!+Y
PG225 CRAVE A 2 Player tank battle game! +Y
PG226 3D GAMES 3 games done in 3d construction+Y
PG227 IMP WALKER 3d walker shoot em up & more +Y
PG228 ASI 42 Galaga, Intuder alert Dogs in space!+
PG229 ASI 43 Interlock Roulette Octothello etc!+
PG230 ASI 44 Nibbler,Mouse Impossible,Roll on etc+
PG231 ASI 45 Dtris,Paccheese,B-Castle Teserae etc+
PE028 MATHS ADVENTURE Solve questions to progress+Y
PE029 LEXCESS Simple but fun hangman style game+
PE030/2 DESKTOP GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC! +Y
PD181 CINEMORPH Fab morphing of 4 faces! 1mbchip!+Y
PD182 SPACEBALL Absolutely brill,needs 1meg chip!+Y
PD183 DIGITAL LETHAL EXIT Good vectors demo! +Y
PD184 ANDROMEDA MINDRIOT Very good vector demo! Y
PA106/7 THE JOURNEY Fab fractal pics & anims(2)+Y
PA108 DESERT DOO Guy finds ice cream van in desert+Y
PA109 SATURN ORBIT Ray traced flight around Saturn+Y
PA110/13 THE SORCEROR Sorceror turns into dragon(4) +
PA114/17 SORCEROR 2 More dragons but 2mg (4) +
PA118 3 SCHWARTZ Skydive,Soft landing & bomber! +Y
PA119 STEAM ANIMATION V2.0 Now with sound! +Y
PA120 TWO STROKE PETROL ENGINE Super anim+Y
PS111 IMAGINE SLIDE Some great hand drawn art!+Y

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All disks on the advert should work on the Amiga 1.2/1.3 dos systems unless otherwise stated! All disks with a "+" sign should work on the Amiga 500+ & 600 machines! However there are so many different setups now in use it is becoming impossible to test for every possible variation, so please use some caution especially with A1500/2000 with various dos systems, CDTV and of course the new Amiga 1200 & 4000 systems. Disks marked with a "Y" should be okay on the A1200 / 4000 though obviously not yet extensively tested. Please take care!

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CLE01 TOTAL CONCEPTS DINOSAURS Have your children ever wanted to know about the ancient world of the dinosaur ? If so, then this is for you - an interactive encyclopedia covering jurassic, triassic & createaceous periods complete with pictures and information. This program is plus compatible and comes on 2 Disks. £4.50 +



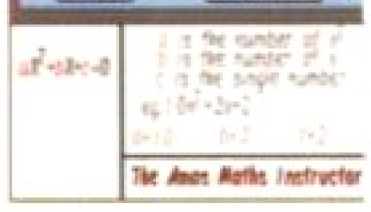
CLE02 TOTAL CONCEPTS GEOLOGY Thit title is the second in the series of quality programs by Chris hill, using the GoldDisk Hyperbook system, it will guide you and your children on an interactive guided tour through the incredible world of volcanos, rocks and minerals. the program is very simple to use ! Geology is on 2 Disks £4.50 +



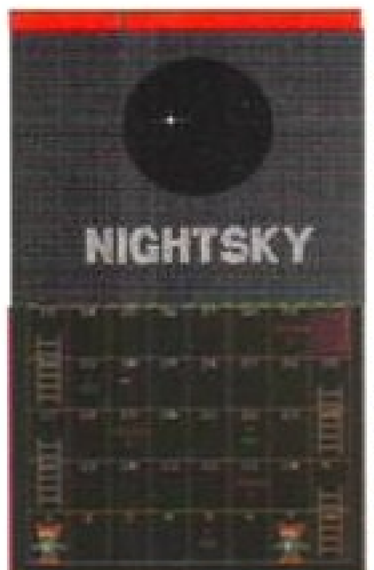
CLE03 TOTAL CONCEPTS SOLAR SYSTEM Now our most popular title ! This one invites you to learn all about the solar system, with information on all of the planets & systems with pictures supplied by Nasa, this is a superb educational package for children & adults. This title is so big it is supplied on Three disks and is priced at only £4.99. +



CLE05 A-CHORD So you want become the next Eric Clapton then this is just what you need ! This program will teach you nearly every single guitar chord including fingering techiniques, it will even *play* the chords using the amigas built in sound chip. A must for every single guitar player beginner and experts alike. Price £3.50 +



CLE06 THE AMOS MATHS INSTRUCTOR. A superb maths tutorial covering all sorts of mathematical subjects including trig, Quadratic, Simultanious, Inequalities, Volumes, Area, Vat & Interest and more. an excellent aid for GCSE students. Price £3.50 +



CLE08 NIGHT SKY A superb introduction to the constellations, this program featurues over 1500 stars, and the sun moon stars & planets can be displayed as seen from any part of the Earth! Large scrolling screen, mouse or keyboard controlled, click on any displayed object for information. This superb title Comes on 2 disks & is priced at 4.50!+

CLE09 WORDS & LADDERS An exellent spelling program for 1 or 2 players, each player has a few seconds to spell a word correctly, the player who reaches the top of the ladder is the winner. The program has 10,000 words so some words can be quite long, however you can select the level! Will also provide printed output to a connected printer, 3.50!+



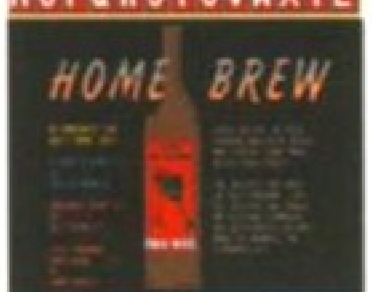
CLE10 BASICALLY AMIGA This is a 3 disk set for the new user! An extensive guide through the use of Amigados. Covering Hardware, Software, Graphics, Sound, the Workbench, Viruses and much much more,you will soon wonder how you did without this useful utiliy pack! For young and old users alike. 3 disk set priced at 4.99! +



CLE11 LET'S LEARN V1.1 For children of about 5 to 7 years of age, each part progresses through five levels of difficulty, when a level is satisfactorily completed then a picture of a farmyard is displayed & a new animal introduced! Try Sums, Tunes, Codes, (numbers) , Opposites & Squares! The program also has a print option! 1 disk 3.50. +



CLE13 ALPHABET TEACH A nice educational program for the young., a very simple to understand spelling program which shows the child a picture & asks for the completion of the appropriate word. The program also has built in speech and will run a series of pictures at the same time speaking the name of the object displayed. Comes on1 disk and is priced 3.50+



CLE13 HOME BREW This is a superb program for the creation of home made wines. It covers all the details of fermentation, bottling & storing of the wine. A selection of recipes for many different wines can be found on the disk & there is an option for printing the recipies out to a connected printer! This program comes on 1 disk and is priced at 3.50. +



CLE14 TOTAL CONCEPTS ECOLOGY Total Concepts Ecology will give you and your children an enthralling overview of the most important "ology" in our lives. This alternative way of learning about Ecology enables you to flip through pages of text, click onto words to get more information and contains superb graphics. Supplied on 3 disks priced 4.99 +

SMOOTH SCROLLING TITLES

created with VIDEO TITLES

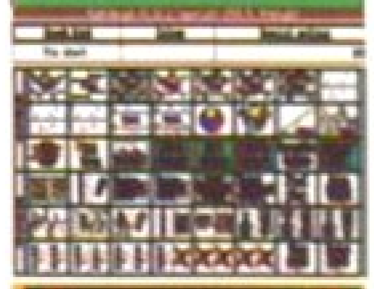
CLU01 VIDEO TITLER is a program that will allow you to create smooth scrolling video titles with the greatest of ease, programmed by Darren Mccaul, whose Starbase is due out soon, the program lets you use any amiga bitmap font, of which several are supplied, and scroll in any colour vertically up the screen. Essential for all video enthusiasts. £3.50 +



CLU02 FISH INDEXER If you have ever wanted a program, but have never been able to find it ANYWHERE chances are it's probably in the fish library, but rather than having to rake through thousands of lines of text, why not use the Fish indexer, a superb database of the entire Fred Fish library, with full search, print and more.Price £3.50+



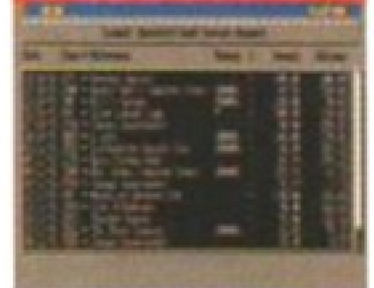
CLU03 TYPING TUTOR A program here now for all you budding office clerks, learning to type can be a real pain, lessons cost a fortune, but not when you have an amiga ! This program will take you step by step through a full typing course, showing where to place your fingers and lots more. Before long you'll be able to type as fast as I can ! Price £3.50 +



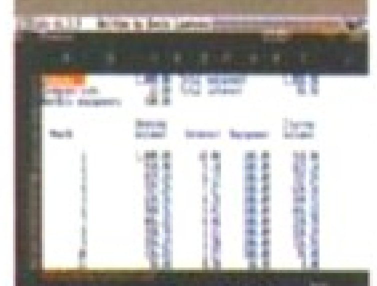
CLU04 ALPHA GRAPH This is an extemely useful program for the production of pie charts, bar charts, Block scatter etc, very useful in conjunction with spreadsheets & other business programs, this program comes on one disk and is priced at 3.50!+



CLU06 SUPER SOUND III This is a superb program which can manipulate samples in almost any way you please, special effects such as reverb, tremelo, phasing, phlanging, echo are just a few of the things which are easily accomplished,the equal of expensive commercial software! Price 3.50!+



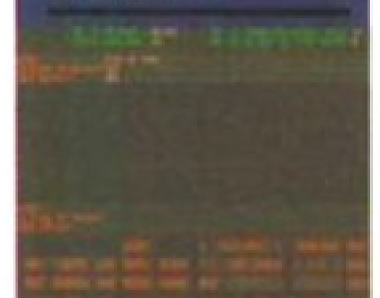
CLU10 POWER ACCOUNTS This is an accounting package for keeping check on your bank account, and is capable of generating account statements and income & expenditure reports. The program will also allow you to "password protect" your data files! An invaluable program for all of your finances, comes on 1 disk , price 3.50. +



CLU11 CALC V1.3 A nice spreadsheet program which works on any Amiga! A spreadsheet is an electronic version of the traditional method of performing complex calculations using rows & columns of figures. In the same way a wordprocessor allows rearranging & editing before printing, so a spreadsheet allows figures & calculations to be constantly changed! 3.50. +



CLU12 VIRTUAL WINDOWS V1.0 Collectively a suite of very useful programs, all on one disk! Features Notepad, Address book, Desk diary, Software VHS inventory & an Amigados survival guide.
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CLU13 DATOS A powerful easy to use database with many features: audible tone, keyboard/mouse control, template feature, cut & paste with mouse, help features, rearrange/add fields even after creation, warning messages, can print down or across the page to save paper, many more features too numerous to list. Price 3.50 +

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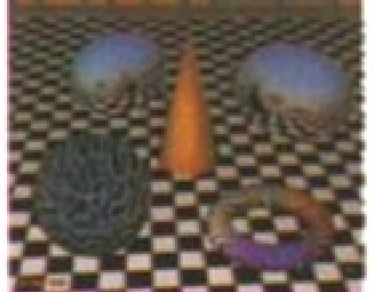
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CLG08 DRAGON TILES Superb version and very addictive ! 1 disk 3.50 +
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(Okay on A1200 / A4000.)

The clipart in this collection is very high quality, huge bitmaps, many greater than an Amiga hires screen, for use in Dpaint or DTP packages, each disk autoboots as a slideshow allowing you to view the entire bitmap by moving the mouse! (Prices per disk!)

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ART31 BORDERS 2 disks, must load into DTP!+
ART32 MAC CLIP 2 disks high quality macart!+
ART33 HORNBACK Nice scenic clipart!+
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ART35 VANITY FARE 2 disks fashion clipart!+
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ART39 FLORAL 14 very detailed pictures!+
ART40 MYTHS Mythical images + zodiac!+
ART41 DOG WOODCUTS Super 300dpi pics!+
ART42 CAT WOODCUTS Great wildcat pics!+
ART43 AFRICAN WOODCUTS African animals!+
ART44 AMERICAN WOODCUTS More animals!+
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ART48 BIRDS WOODCUTS 18th century bird pics!+
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ART51 BOTANICAL ART Very detailed plant pics!+
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ART53 GOLF HUMOUR 2 amusing cartoon disks!+
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ART59 ALPHABET Borders & alphabet clips!+
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500 THINGS VS THE YOUNG GODS/500 THINGS VS NINE INCH NAILS

DEMO

CYNOSTIC PD, DISKS SOO62 & SOO63

500 Things, aka Nic Cusworth, make another foray into the world of Amiga music with these two single-disk remixes. Regular readers of PD Demo Zone will recall reviews of previous disks such as *I'm Jesus, I'm God, I'm Satan* (*AF*36). Nic also produced a cassette album under the name 500 Things, entitled *High on Hate*, which caused a bit of a stir among industrial music fans.

Now, though, he turns his attention to a spot of remixing, concentrating on two of the finest bands in the 'industrial' genre: Nine Inch Nails and The Young Gods. Each disk concentrates on a particular track from each band. For NIN it's *Get Down Make Love* – a cover version of the Queen track from the B–side of the *Sin* single. The samples are excellent, and Nic uses the *Octalyser* program to mix the samples into a semblance of order.

The problem with remixes of songs using the Amiga is the lack of singing – obviously it's not possible to sample long sections of verse, so actually getting voices on the things is damn near impossible. With *Get Down Make Love*, though, there isn't much in the way of singing on the original anyway, so the Amiga version converts pretty well. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the remix of The Young Gods' excellent *Skinflowers*. Even though the singing on the album version isn't exactly inspired, it seems that it is necessary to keep the song flowing.

It's a cracking attempt – don't get me wrong, fans of the genre will undoubtedly enjoy the disks, and it's nice to see some industrial music entering on to the scene after such a long absence. This is the future of dance music, so the more musicians we have making disks such as these the better off we'll all be. Nice one.



Not sure what this image has got to do with The Young Gods, but it certainly looks good...



Nine Inch Nails are an American industrial band, and this visual suits them down to the ground.

Continued from page 167

Following in the tradition, which began with Flip the Frog by Eric Schwartz, and continuing with the likes of Duncan the Dung Beetle by Roddy McMillan, Paul Tye has jumped on to the bandwagon and created his own character, Alvin Aerosol. Unfortunately, though, it seems that this may be his only starring role, as you'll find out at the end.

In true *Road Runner* fashion, Alvin makes his approach on to the screen with the subtitle Burnemupus Ozoneus, and a slight pause. The screen in question is Alvin's bathroom, complete with a wall cabinet filled with toiletries, and the obligatory rubber duck. Sadly, Alvin's general peaceful and happy existence is spoiled by a fly which is busy buzzing around.

Fortunately for Alvin, he is the embodiment of just the thing to get rid of the offending fly – a can of insecticide! Without any hesitation Alvin aims and fires, and the fly bites the dust. Having done the dirty deed, Alvin then toddles off outside into the blazing sun – and promptly explodes in a cloud of ash. Bit of a shame, really, because he seemed to be a promising character. Still, given that this is a cartoon, Paul may perhaps decide to resurrect Alvin at some point – let's hope it's soon.

ABSOLUTE INEBRIATION

DEMO

17-BIT, DISK 2379 A&B



Absolute inebriation? Seems as if the chief's been at the old firewater again, by the looks of him.

Aha, but this one's in machine code. It's not often nowadays that I'm massively impressed by megademos, but this is the second that has caught my attention from the recent batch of PD.

This two-disker is packed to the jams with all manner of effects. The music isn't particularly of note, but the sheer variety of graphical twists and turns that the coders have included here are at times breathtaking. There are too many here to note down, but without a doubt the best is the transition between titles on the intro screen. After one line of text is displayed, the Amiga maps out each of the points contained in the text, then it maps out the points for the next line of text, and finally it quickly moves each point to its new position. The produced effect looks like an explosion, which then reduces down to a new order. Fantastic.

The other stuff is almost as good, including some bits of swirly vectors and plasma effects that really set your head spinning. Get it and be impressed.

TOP 10 DEMOS OF THE MONTH

Just so that you know what the popular demos are each month, we ask a Public Domain library to tell us their Top 10...

17 BIT (AGAIN)

1	Sanity – World of Commodore	2344
2	LSD – Jesus on E's	2268 A&B
3	Spaceballs – State of the Art	2371
4	Mayday – Rave Demo	2434
5	Anarchy – 3D Demo 2	2400
6	Fairlight – Absolute Inebriation	2379 A&B
7	Vanish – World of Commodore	2343
8	Anarchy – Legalise it	2380 A&B
9	Claustrophobia Megademo	2452
10	Digital Demo	2397

SAVINGS CERT ANIM

DEMO

17-BIT, DISK 2372

Fans of Gary Larson will like this. Most of the rip-off animations doing the rounds don't bother crediting the original, but this one does. It's based on the Larson animation used in the recent advert for National Savings Certificates – and if you don't know who Gary Larson is, go out and look for The Far Side books in your local bookshop.

Keith Nicholson thought the anim was so good, he had to do a version for the Amiga. It shows a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, where everything is made from line-drawings except for the butterfly itself. There's a surprise ending which doesn't actually appear in the original, and it's rather amusing.

The graphics are all hand drawn with no trace of a digitiser, and are extremely faithful to the original, including Larson's signature. Excellent.



Ah, the old 'frog-hidden-in-the-bushes-disguised-as-a-berry' trick. Gets 'em every time.

WHERE TO GET THE DISKS IN THIS ISSUE

CYNOSTIC PD: 85 Wyken Croft, Coventry, CV2 3AD. 0203 613817

NBS: 1 Chain Lane, Newport, Isle Of Wight, PO33 2QQ. 0983 529594

17-BIT: 2-8 Market Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 1DH. 0924 366982

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+U016 ...Biorhythms (1 meg) ...... Chart your feelings
+U033 ...Education 1 ...... Learn German
+U035 ...Education 3 ...... Weather
+U036 ...Education 4 ...... Evolution
+U052 ...Business Card Maker ...... Simple, but useful
+U084 ...Wordwright ...... For all you dizlecksicks!
+U089 ...Journal ...... Very good account-handler
+U092 ...Cartoon Brushes ...... Lots of famous characters
+U098 ...Database Master ...... Comprehensive AMOS database
+U123 ...IQ Tester ...... How thick are you?
+U124 ...Chess Tutor ...... The quest to become a Grand Master
+U128 ...Viz Clip Art ...... Roger Mony in D Paint
+U130 ...Label Designer ...... Various label printers
+U134 ...Ami Cash ...... Best accounts package around
+U136 ...Amibase Prof ...... Excellent database
+U140 ...Text Engine ...... Excellent word processor
+U142 ...Super Fonts ...... Lots of Super Fonts
U144 ...Samples Discs (4 disks) ...... Soundtracker Modules
U149 ...New Super Killers ...... Updated virus killers
+U149 ...The Main Event ...... File event editor
U150 ...Languages Spanish, German, Italian +French dictionary
+U151 ...Imploder v4.0 ...... File compresser
+U152 ...PC Task ...... Emulates IBM + PC programs
+U153 ...File-a-fax ...... As it sounds
+U154 ...QED ...... Beginners word processor
+U162 ...The Complete Bible (4 Disks) ...... The new testament on disc
+U164 ...World Databank ...... Creates maps of the world
+U165 ...A-graph ...... Creates bar graphs
+U175 ...Text plus VERSION 4 ...... Excellent word processor
+U178 ...(2 Discs) Analytic ALC ...... (2 Discs) Best spreadsheet available
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+U204 ...Race Rate ...... For horse racing information
+U212 ...Back talk ...... Advice on common back complaints
+U211 ...Training Log ...... Keep data of exercises
+U210 ...Pools' Tools 2 ...... Compatible with the new pools' system
+U217 ...Nashie Niblick ...... Original golf score recorder
+U215 ...Menu Launcher ...... Create your own menus
+U214 ...The money program ...... V1.5 More accounts - up to 2,500 transactions
+U206 ...AVC Adventure Creator ...... Create adventure games
+U197 - U210 Clip art disks (5 disks) ...... Clip art for all occasions

DEMOS

+D015 ...Agatron Star Wars (1 meg/2 disks) ...... Captivating graphics
+D058 ...Enterprise leaving dock ...... Famous animation
+D075 ...Girls of sport ...... Pretty shots of talented girls
D092 ...Iraq demo (1 meg) ...... Topical cartoon. Bush meets Saddam! Bang!
+D114 ...Mike Tyson anim. ...... Well compiled
+D148 ...The Run (1 meg) ...... T. Richter's car-chase animation. Good
+D162 ...Stealthy Manoeuvres (1 meg) ...... Excellent demo
+D166 ...Star Trek Animations ...... Anims. of USS Enterprise
+D177 ...Star Trek Animations ...... Agatron no.17 More like above. Good
+D225 ...Reincarnation of Sgt. Pepper (2 disks, 1 meg) ...... Beatles classic
D226 ...Virtual World ...... Best demo of year?!
+D251 ...Debbie Harry (2 disks) ...... Slideshow Blondie
+D253 ...WWF Wrestlers ...... Hogan & more
D254 ...Ray of Hope ...... Acidic Demo
+D278 ...Desert Storm ...... Information on Gulf War

MUSIC

+M006 ...Batdance remix ...... Really good disk. Catchy stuff
+M016 ...Depeche Mode ...... 8 Tracks of reasonable quality
+M032 ...Godbrain loves the world ...... Great acid-house musak
+M057 ...Powerpack 3 (1 meg) ...... Includes Vanilla Ice track
+M059 ...Powerpack 5 (1 Mb) ...... 4 classy house tracks
+M062 ...Random Access ...... Art of Noise and more. Startling acid track
+M080 ...Pet Shop Boys ...... Manic mix
+M081 ...Miami Vice ...... Theme music remix
+M084 ...The Wall ...... Pink Floyd classic
+M090 ...Led Zeppelin ...... Stairway to Heaven etc.
+M093 ...MC Hammer ...... You Can't Touch This
M094 ...Guns'n'Roses ...... Heavy Metal Freaks
M101 ...Magic Roundabout ...... As it sounds!

GAMES

+G001 ...Autobahn 3000 ...... Control ball through tunnel. Hard
+G003 ...Antep (1 meg) ...... Adventure, also slot cars
G004 ...Airwar ...... Fighter simulation. Good shareware game
+G005 ...All New Star Trek (2 drives) ...... USS Enterprise classic. Best one
+G010 ...Breakout ...... Classic bat & ball game
+G011 ...Blizzard ...... Horizontal shoot-'em-up. High quality
G013 ...Bullrun ...... War-game, based on US Civil War. Control army
+G014 ...Adventure Solutions (2 disks) ...Loads of hints of commercial games
+G015 ...Crossfire (1 meg) ...... Excellent game written in AMOS
+G019 ...Dungeon Delver (2 disks) ...... Difficult adventure quest
+G021 ...Demolition Mission (1 meg) ...... Similar to Balloonacy, good fun
+G023 ...Electronic Train Set (1 meg) ...... Construct own train set
G029 ...Flaschbire ...... Old favourite. Get to alarm clock
+G031 ...Gravattack ...... Control spaceship, picking up keys
+G043 ...Learn and Play 1 ...... Good for the kids. Blackboard maths. etc.
+G044 ...Learn & Play 2 ...... More fun for the kids
+G053 ...Mayhem ...... Brilliant shoot-'em-up
G055 ...Mechforce ...... Strategy game
+G059 ...Nethack (Fish 460) ...... Good adventure game, recently appraised
+G061 ...Pick up a puzzle (1 meg/2 disks) ...... Fit the pieces. Good for the kids
G062 ...3D Pool ...... Control cue with mouse, and it's all pot luck!
G063 ...Pacman ...... The classic game still here
+G065 ...Pixie Kingdom (2 disks) ...... Tricky adventure game. Good
+G071 ...Return to Earth (1 meg) ...... Space adventure
+G072 ...Star Trek : Next Generation ...... Not as good as G005
+G076 ...Star Fleet ...... Addictive shoot'em up
G077 ...Seven Tiles ...... Excellent speedball game from Alpha
+G081 ...Trek Trivia ...... Test your Star Trek knowledge
+G083 ...Wooden Ball (1 meg) ...... Score three goals to win
+G084 ...Wet Beaver Tennis ...... Simple, but good fun bat & ball game
+G086 ...Wraithed One ...... Good general knowledge quiz
G099 ...Cabaret Asteroids ...... Best version yet. Recommended
+G102 ...Simulation 1 (1 meg) ...... Recommended. 5 games including Metro
G108 ...Llamatron ...... Geoff Minters shoot-'em-up
+G109 ...Wheel of Fortune ...... TV Quiz, computerized
+G124 ...Napoleonic Warfare ...... High-quality simulation
G129 ...Stock Market ...... Speculate at no risk!
G130 ...Battle Pong ...... Table tennis game-good
+G143 ...Card Shop ...... Well presented card games
+G148 ...Galactic Food Fight ...... Blow up those burgers
+G149 ...Raphaels Revenge ...... Difficult platform adventure
+G151 ...Hmmmm That's not on the Syllabus ...... AMOS adventure
+G153 ...Growth ...... Destroy an expanding brain
G154 ...Jet Man ...... Classic Game
+G155 ...Mission X ...... Quality shoot-'em-up
+G157 ...Quadrix ...... Difficult puzzle game
+G165 ...Super Skoda Challenge ...... Car racing game
+G170 ...Amos Criket ...... 'Owzat!
+G171 ...Top Secret ...... Quality platform game
+G175 ...Whizz Wall ...... NEW Wizard shooting game
+G176 ...White Knight ...... NEW Excellent shoot'em up game
+G180 ...Tank Attack ...... World War 2 Simulation+
G181 ...Quick 'n' Silver ...... Great platform game
+G197 ...All rounder ...... Cricket game
G198 ...Snakes & Ladders ...... Addictive classic
+G204 ...Super League Manager ...... Manage your own Soccer team+
+G208 ...Grand Prix Simulator ...... Excellent
+G209 ...Games Galore Ten ...... 14 excellent games
G211 ...Croak ...... Frogger clone
+G214 ...Parachute Joust ...... Try & catch a parachute
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+G222 ...Neighbours adventure ...... (2 discs) Bring Paul Robinson to court
+G223 ...Wizard Wars ...... Graphics Adventure
+G224 ...Strategic Games ...... 3 Excellent games
+G225 ...Addams Family Quiz ...... Quiz on classic TV programme
+G226 ...Duel ...... 2 player shooting game
+G230 ...Assassins 27 ...... Addictive card game
+G231 ...Assassins 28 ...... Mad Bomber, Invators 2 + Doctor Mario
+G234 ...Assassins 31 ...... Crazy Pipe + Revolution
+G235 ...Assassins 32 ...... Fire Fighter, Blob + Sector 1
+G240 ...Assassins 37 ...... Ghost Ship + Klaktriks (Excellent)
+G243 ...Tetron ...... Excellent Tetris Clone
+G246 ...Entity ...... Great game as reviewed in Amiga Format last month
+G247 ...Quizmaster ...... Updated version with editor
+G249 ...Assassins 49 ...... Packman Deluxe, Leap 2 + Tractor Beam
+G250 ...Atlantis ...... Great role playing game
+G252 ...Bomb Jackie ...... Collect the bombs
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Workbench

What's going on inside your Amiga? Why's it behaving in such a strange manner? What do I do when it all goes horribly wrong? Here's **Pat McDonald** with some reasoned explanations…

CAKE VS RICE

FROM: RAJNISS BHASLEAN, STRABANE

Just a couple of things. My battery backed-up clock has disappeared – I know it's in a big triangular block inside my A500. But how do I get it back?



An A570 CD-ROM gives you access to some seriously fun CD titles, but as a creative tool I'd rather have a pencil!

Workbench 1.3 has a bug, which lets out-of-control programs overwrite the clock with garbage. Afterwards, 1.3 sees this as a clock that isn't there. There are many Public Domain utilities to take care of this and they are similar to the Shell command:

```
Setclock RESET
```

except that they don't check to see if there's a clock fitted – they just zap the 50 bytes or so of clock memory with zeroes in order to clear it. Later versions of Workbench don't suffer from this problem.

Another thing it could be is that the battery which powers the clock chip when your computer is off has gone flat. Not all battery-backed clocks are rechargable. Some use flat lithium batteries, like oversize watch batteries, which have to be replaced every few years.

Also which is the better buy? An A570 CD-ROM drive or a hard disk?

Which is better, chocolate fudge cake or pilau rice? There's more satisfaction in the cake, but there's more nutrition in the rice. What I'm saying is that a CD-ROM drive is used mostly for entertainment and educational purposes, whereas a hard drive enables you to use your computer for various creative projects and to get the most out of your 'serious' software.

Of course, some big games do install on to a hard disk, and you can get the vast majority of the *Fred Fish* PD disk collections on two CDs, so there are exceptions, but the above is a good rule of thumb.

A600 OR A1200?

FROM: MATTHEW HILL, GODALMING

I currently own a Spectrum +3 and I am considering upgrading to an Amiga. The only thing is, which one? I want a 20 Mb hard disk for sure, but do I get an A600 or an A1200? I tried using a friend's A500 with Workbench 1.3, and it was difficult. I want to use the machine for serious uses and programming.

Either, really. Workbench 2 on the A600 is nearly as good as Workbench 3 on the A1200. They're both miles, miles better than 1.3. Some perverse 1.3 owners don't like Workbench 2 just because it's different. Remember, the A600 doesn't go as fast as the A1200, it displays fewer colours and isn't as expandable – so an A1200 is a better buy by a long way.

With a hard drive, does Workbench come up automatically when you switch the machine on?

Yup. It's not instantaneous, but with most hard drives



The A600 was designed as a first Amiga buy – it's a simple machine that anyone will be able to get to grips with.

you get to Workbench within 30 seconds. On an A4000 you'll find it's more like three. If you put a floppy disk in the drive, then the computer will start from that instead.

Are there limitations to what can be stored on a hard disk?

Yes. Hard drives are rated as having a certain storage value – 20 Mb, 40 Mb, 80 Mb and many other sizes. It's just like using a huge floppy disk that loads and saves like lightning. Oh, Mb stands for megabyte by the way. One million bytes and then a bit (1,048,576 to be exact).

Continued overleaf

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

FROM: KA WESTHEAD, NORWICH

I've been led to believe that fast RAM allows chip RAM to be accessed only by the custom chips, is this correct? If so, is it worth buying a chip RAM upgrade, because I already have 2Mb of fast RAM in my A600.

Hmm, nearly got it. As standard, most Amigas only have chip RAM, which is general purpose RAM accessible by all the chips in the Amiga. All graphics and sounds have to be stored here, and it can also be used to store computer programs.

Fast RAM is memory that can only be accessed by the processor, so only programs can be stored here. Because the custom chips cannot talk to it and interrupt the processor, well-behaved programs load themselves into fast RAM and leave the chip RAM for the sound and graphics.

It is always worth buying a memory upgrade if you find that your Amiga is running out of memory. However, this does depend on what you are using it for. A gamesplayer doesn't have a genuine need for more than 2Mb of RAM – 1Mb is nearly always sufficient at the present time. If you are using a tool like *MorphPlus*, then 4Mb of fast RAM is an absolute minimum, and 8Mb of the stuff is recommended.

What I think you meant to say is that you have 2Mb of chip RAM and is fast RAM worth getting? Like I say, it depends on what you are using your Amiga for. If you aren't sure how much of either you have connected, then type this into the Shell or CLI:

```
Avail
```

The Amiga will come back with how much fast and chip RAM you have, plus a total amount. It also tells you how much is in current use. By the way, the memory meter on Workbench 2 and above which says 'graphics memory' is referring to chip RAM. Same stuff, different name.

I have been programming in Motorola assembler on a Macintosh as part of my course at university. I tried to use the *Devpac 2* disk from *Amiga Format* 39 because I thought this would help me. However, I can't work out how to initiate the stack pointer. On the Mac, I simply type:

```
move.l #$3000,A7
```

This doesn't work on *Devpac*. Do I need to use a different address, or is there a completely different method of doing this?

I have absolutely no idea. Do any readers?

Also, how can I use *CrossDOS* with *Devpac*, so that I can work on files that I use with the Mac?

Just save your source files on to a PC disk (preferably formatted on the Mac with *Apple File Exchange*) and then load it on the Mac with the same program. You will almost certainly have to adjust the tabs and spaces, and maybe delete a couple of spurious characters at the beginning of the file. But there's not a lot to it.



***MorphPlus* has possibly the dullest frontend of any program, but that's just a blind to its huge potential.**

Do Amigas that are bought with a hard disk always have Workbench on them, or do I have to go out and buy it separately?

Usually they do, although this is technically illegal for a shop or supplier to do unless they have a licence to supply Workbench. Commodore usually turn a blind eye to this, because they don't have the capacity to fulfil the entire market. It would also be embarrassing for them if they took a supplier to court over it – and lost.

CHEAPER AND BETTER?

FROM: TOBY O' ROURKE, BILLERICAY

I have a problem with my Citizen Swift 24. It bands colour pictures as it prints – how do I get around this? I have followed the manual and I've tried to get Citizen Print Manager on to my paint packages.

Try using a different printer driver and a different printer.device file in the devs directory. Printers sometimes need a bit of tinkering before they work to their best capacity with the Amiga.

Secondly, I want a hard drive for my A1500. I have £400 to spend, and am tempted to get a GVP Impact 2 HD8, with a 120 Mb drive. Is there anything cheaper, and possibly better, for the same price?

No. GVP have the A1500/A2000 hard drive market sewn up. The old Nexus drives were up to the same spec, but the manuals and setup software weren't as good. The Gasteiner ALF3 is a tad faster, about the same price, but again the manuals and software are not so hot.

And what does the advert mean when it says "8Mb onboard"? I already have 1Mb inside my A1500.

It means you get 8Mb of lovely fast RAM added to your computer as well as the storage capacity of your hard drive. If you get 'out of memory' errors with that lot, then you are either using badly written software which can't see it (thankfully a rarity), or you are trying to do something beyond the capacity of 9Mb of memory. Like creating a feature film on *Deluxe Paint*.

Finally, why do you not test more hardware for the A1500, A2000, A3000 or A4000 series of computers?

We test all we get. To be honest, most companies in the 'serious' end of the market are reluctant about sending rather expensive boards to me to be stripped, torn apart and prodded. The reason is that, if an expansion is naff, then a company really doesn't want me to tell you that. I'd love to see more high-spec hardware, and I am constantly chasing it. But it's not easy.

BLAG TIME PRINTOUTS

FROM: JOHN HEDGER, LUTON

How many Amiga users have access to other computers which have printers attached? If it's a PC, or it can read PC disks, you don't need to take the printer to the Amiga or vice versa; you don't need a really long cable. All you need is the CMD icon found on Workbench 2 or higher, and *CrossDOS* from *Amiga Format* 40. Here's an example of how you go about it to print a picture in *Deluxe Paint*:

1. Set Workbench to use the correct driver for the type of printer that you will be printing on.
2. Double click on the CMD icon in the Tools drawer of the Extras disk. This captures print and sends it to RAM:. If printing a complex document, then you can easily overfill your computer's memory capacity.
3. Insert the *DPaint* disk, and double click on the icon. Load the IFF picture, and print it. Eventually a file will appear in RAM, called CMD_File1.
4. Quit from *DPaint*, double click on the RAM icon, and select Show/All Files from the Window menu.
5. An icon will appear, called CMD_File1. Click on it, and select Rename from the Icon menu. Call it something more acceptable to a PC like IMAGE1.PRT.
6. Using *CrossDOS*, copy the file from the RAM disk to a PC disk. Click and hold on the icon, and drag it to the icon for the PC disk from the RAM disk!
7. Take the disk to the PC, and print it. Something like this from MS-DOS should do the trick:

```
COPY A:IMAGE.PRT PRT1:
```

It sounds strange, but it works. In theory, if you had an Amiga with a printer and you wanted to print PC files, a similar procedure (piping the printer output to a file, transferring it on a PC disk, and copying it to PAR: via Shell) would do the job. There are going to be a lot of people caught printing out their children's work on an office machine!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

FROM: FRANK JACKSON, LANGHOLM

I purchased an A600 a few months ago after being impressed by my friend's older A500 Plus. Thinking the A600 to be the latest and greatest Amiga I went for it. I now buy all the Amiga magazines I can each month so that I can learn more about it. The thing is that Coverdisk 58 (*Spot the slight flaw in this reader's complaint – Pat.*) containing *Maxiplan* and *StereoMaster* is so incompatible that I am now totally frustrated.

Do you try Coverdisks out on the A600 as well as the A500 Plus? I wonder because I read so much in the magazine about the A500 Plus, but there's very little mention of the A600.



The A500 Plus was replaced soon after launch, but that's only because the A600 was cheaper to build and sell.

Dude! Bro! You are getting us confused with a different Amiga magazine. I can't say for sure because I don't bother with the competition often – I find they plagiarise us too much. Lots of people phone me and write to me to complain about *Maxiplan*. I feel tempted to help, but I've never even seen the program so there's not a lot I can do.

I'm sick and tired of taking flak for other magazines' mistakes. I'm also sick of having to tell people that there's nothing I can do. Sorry, but do other magazines take responsibility for my mistakes, when they don't even bother with their own? No chance.

As for testing programs on the A600, yes I test all the ***Amiga Format*** Coverdisk programs on just that machine as well as others. Please people, don't get *Amiga Format* mixed up with the other, smaller Amiga magazines. I know it can be difficult because they rip off our design and layout something rotten.

AFFIRMATIVE, CAPTAIN

FROM: GRAHAM CONLON, FOLKESTONE

I have programmed in the past on my 1.2 A500, as well as on some PCs and still do sometimes. I program in BASIC on the Amiga (fairly simple stuff), but whenever I want to load the programs I've created, I have to load BASIC first. Is there any way to compile these programs so that I can run them straight from a disk without loading the BASIC language first?

MUMBO JUMBO...

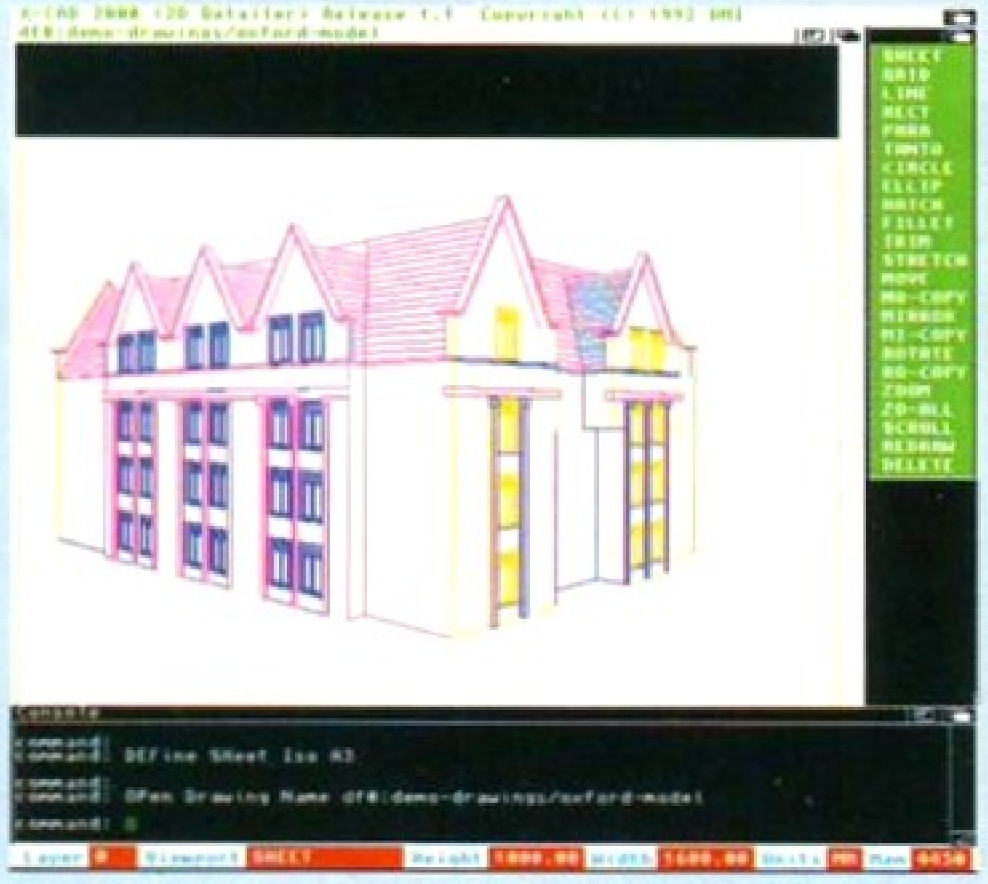
FROM: TIM BALL, SOUTHAMPTON

I use *Scribble!* and *CrossDOS* to transfer text documents from my Amiga to the PC I use at university. No problems there, but when I try to transfer documents the other way, it doesn't work. All I get is a few characters of mumbo jumbo at the top and that's it. How do I do it properly?

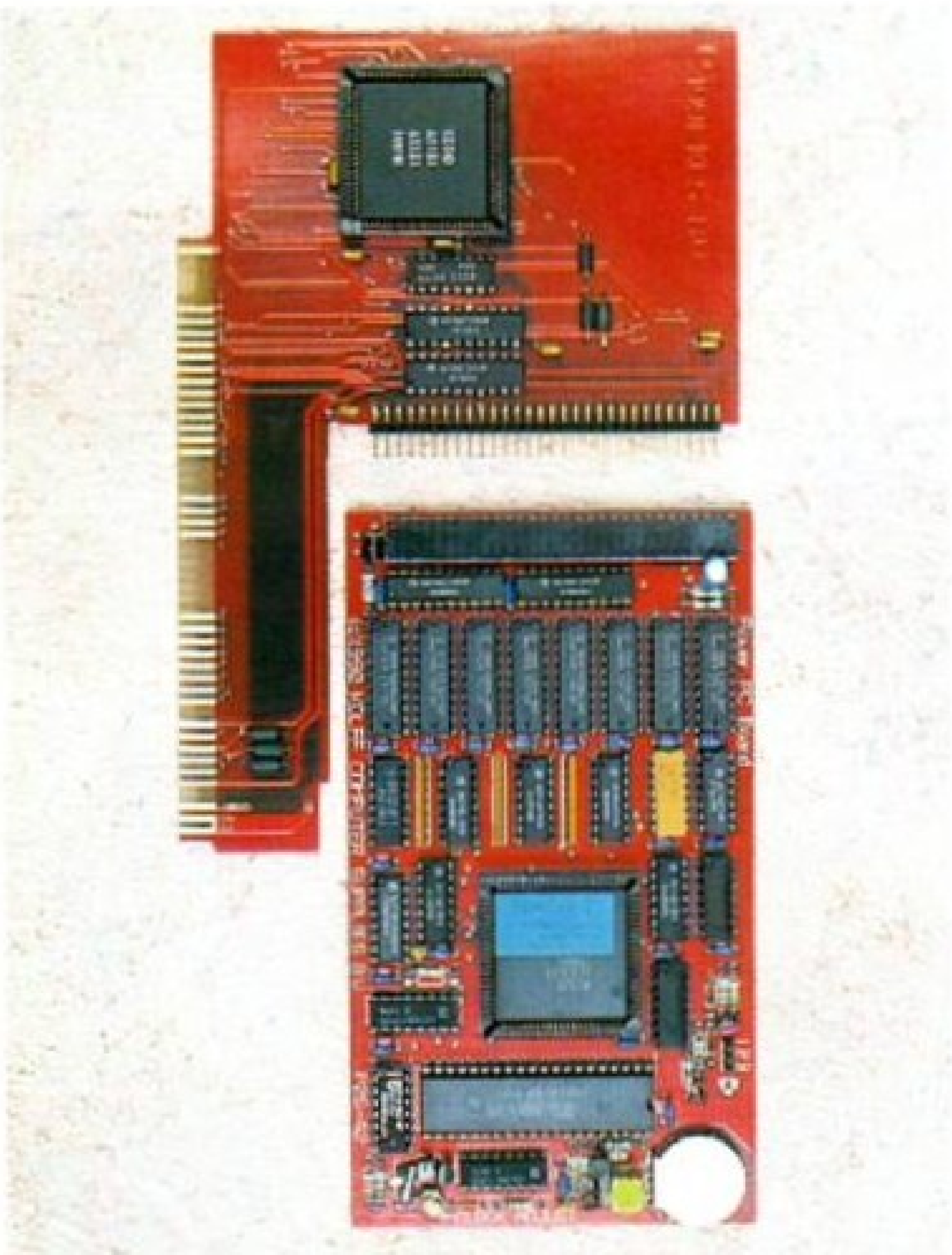
I'd love to help, except that I haven't touched a PC for about six years and I have no intention of ever going back. I would guess that you are not saving the file in pure ASCII format on the PC. *CrossDOS* is seeing a lot of extra funny characters in the file, one of which looks like the end of the file (to *CrossDOS*) but isn't.

Also, I am considering buying *XCAD2000* with a large slice from my meagre student grant. I have heard, though, that it sometimes introduces irregularities into the DXF files as used on PC *AutoCAD*. Is this true, and is there any way around it?

This feature of *XCAD* has received more upgrades and bug fixes than any other, probably. Put it this way – if it was true, it isn't true now. It depends a) on what version of *XCAD* you get and b) what version of *AutoCAD* you are using.



***XCAD 2000*, the simplest of the *XCAD* series, is still way too difficult unless you are determined to learn.**



The official Commodore Bridgeboard is the best emulator available – but it's not as cheap as a real PC.

If you are using Amiga BASIC, as supplied with Workbench 1.2 and 1.3, then yes. What you want is the AC compiler from Absoft. It's rather old now, but then you do have a rather old machine now. Try phoning around the mail order companies and ask if they have an old copy. As I recall it's a bit expensive about £70.

I am looking for some other languages for my Amiga and have already started to use Turbo C on the PC, it would be excellent if I could get Turbo C on the Amiga. Is it available, and if so how much will it be. Would I need a PC emulator?

With a PC emulator, you could run PC Turbo C. If you want the best Amiga C, then get SAS Lattice C version 6 from Hisoft. It costs a lot (£200) but it's worth it.

On the subject of emulators, I have seen adverts for PC emulators and PC cards. Although the cards seem cheaper than an emulator, what is the difference between them? Also, give me a source for a good 286 emulator – nothing more or less.

Well, a PC card is usually an expansion for a real PC. On an A1500 or above, then you can fit a Commodore Bridgeboard emulator which also lets you plug in these genuine PC expansions (OK, this isn't much help to you, but it may be of help to other readers).

An emulator is an expansion, usually fitted inside the machine, which gives a large degree of IBM/Microsoft compatibility. You can run many PC programs with an emulator, because PC software is written to work with a wide range of different brands and marks of PC.

You've got a choice of two, the Vortex ATOnce Plus or the KCS Powerboard. The ATOnce is a 286 emulator – important if you are using PC software that won't run without a 286. However, the KCS board is actually a great deal faster than the Vortex product.

The reason is that the KCS uses the Amiga as a graphics and sound display for a PC – you can't run Amiga software at the same time as the PC. You can do this with the ATOnce, but it's a lot slower. You can get a KCS from Bitcon Devices Ltd (091-490 1919) for about £210. A Vortex board (you need to dismantle your A500/A500 Plus to fit one) will set you back about £180, and is available from Silica (081-309 1111).

Techno babble

Do you know how to talk techie speak? Well, if you don't then this little bit of jargon-busting should sort you out...

Accelerator: hardware expansion that gives your Amiga a faster CPU. Often used with maths-intensive software where a standard processor is too slow, for programs called 'ray tracers' which literally trace the rays of light which bounce around a scene to produce a picture. Also used to considerably speed up flight and other kinds of simulations.

Anim Brush: a brush is a small section of a graphic screen, cut out with a paint program like *Deluxe Paint*. Anim brushes are different small images with the same dimensions – for instance, a bird flapping its wings or an eye blinking.

Blitter: BLock Image TransfER device. Used for copying large areas of memory from A to B, or to combine different areas into one single image. Widely used to generate large graphic shapes in computer games.

Bridgeboard: Commodore's own IBM emulating device, featuring a complete PC computer on a single card. Only fits A1500 and above machines – enables use of standard PC cards.

Chip RAM: memory accessible by the custom chips (Paula, Agnus, Denise) as well as the processor. Used to store all graphics and sounds. Can be used by programs too – with speed slow downs.

CLI: Command Line Interface. The program which enables you to type commands into AmigaDOS for standard operations like copying files or getting a directory. Shell is more commonly used now.

Copper: co-processor. Used to generate subtly coloured backgrounds – this device is built into the Agnus chip and it can alter colours while the screen is being generated. Executes instructions at the same time as the processor.

CPU: Central Processing Unit. The decision-making chip, the one that tells everything else what to do. It can be interrupted by custom hardware if its programs are in chip RAM.

Fast RAM: memory that's only accessible by the processor. Programs stored here run faster than those in chip RAM – hence the name.

Frame grabber: device for capturing live video data and converting it into computer picture data. Doesn't require a still video signal. Usually gives much better results than a video digitiser, which does the same job, except that the video must be paused.

Freezer cartridge: quasi-legal device for examining programs while they are running. Usually with many useful built-in utilities which help overshadow its dubious origins.

Hard drive: basically a big disk for keeping Workbench and all the serious software that you use. Works much faster than a floppy disk. More and more games are becoming installable on to a hard drive.

IFF: Interchange File Format. A standard way of storing pictures and sounds, invented by Electronic Arts and adopted by Commodore. A single standard – practically all art programs can load and save pictures in this form.

Kickstart: the name of the set of programs which are run when the Amiga is turned on. Also contains many library functions for use by programmers. Latest release is Kickstart 3. Other releases; 2, 1.3, 1.2, 1.1.

PD: Public Domain. Literally, software that is the property of everybody. PD disks can be freely copied by anyone, and you can also distribute them to whoever you want. The correct term is 'Freeware'. 'Shareware' (try before you buy) and 'Licenseware' (commercial and non-distributable) also come under the same rough heading of 'very cheap software'.

ROM: Read Only Memory. Memory that cannot be altered. Widely used as the starting programs for computer systems that have just been turned on – ROMs remember things permanently.

RAM: Random Access Memory. Memory that can be altered and re-altered many times. Typically, it does not remember what it contains when the computer's power is switched off.

Scanner: hardware device for reading flat pictures from posters, newspapers and so on, and converting them into computer graphics. Often used in desktop publishing to read in previously published images.

Script file: a set of commands which you would otherwise have to type into the CLI or Shell by hand, saved as a text file. Learning how to use Shell or the CLI involves learning how to write script files.

Shell: more up-to-date version of CLI. Works in exactly the same way, but enables some flexibility in what commands are called via the 'alias' function. Also gives some hot-key combinations to enable some editing of previously entered commands.

Sound Sampler: hardware device that converts electrical music signals (typically from a tape or CD player) into computer sound. Can also be used with a microphone to capture live sounds.

Sprite: a graphic object that is independent of the screen. On the Amiga, sprites are limited in size and colours. Typically used for mouse pointers, alien missiles, and so on.

Startup-sequence: the name of the script file, contained in the S directory, which is executed after a disk has booted. Typically contains just the name of a program to auto-run, but can be very complicated. Whatever the nature of the file, it must always be called Startup-sequence and live in the S directory.

Workbench: the set of programs which set up a graphical 'point-and-click' interface on the Amiga. Much more friendly than the CLI or Shell, but not as flexible. Always has to be loaded from disk, which is slow but does enable much customisation. Workbench 2 requires a Kickstart 2 ROM. Workbench 1.3 requires a 1.3 ROM, 1.2 needs a 1.2 ROM and so on.

Zorro: this the generic name for the Amiga's expansion connector. The A500, A500 Plus and A1000 had the original Zorro I; the A1500s and the A2000s have Zorro II; and the A3000 and A4000 have Zorro III. They are not compatible, hence the different expansions for different machines. The A600 and A1200 have a PCMCIA connector instead.

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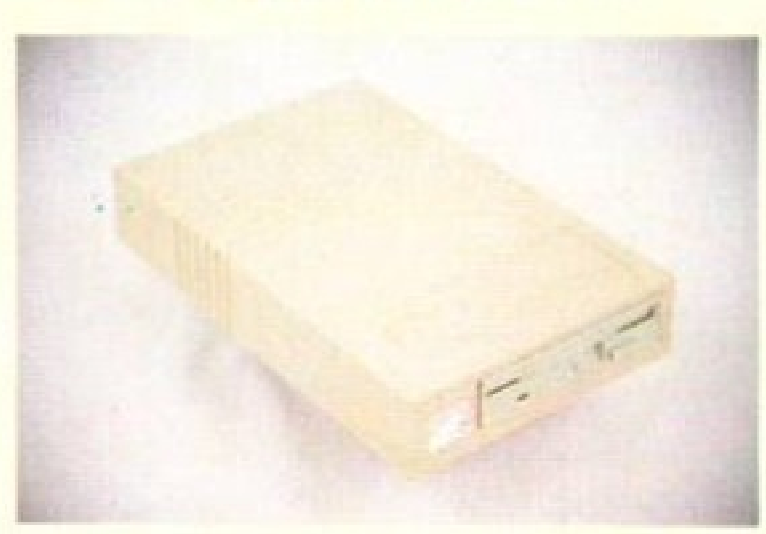
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Answerfile

No matter how simple or how complex, **Pat McDonald** is the man who is ready to answer your questions on all things Amiga...

Q I've noticed that some games have install programs to enable them to be installed on a hard drive, but what about a game like *Streetfigher 2*? Can these games be put on to a hard drive, or would this be breaking the copyright laws?



***Streetfighter 2*, one of many arcade games that come on non-DOS disks and so will not install on to a hard drive.**

A No, they can't be put on to a hard disk. A good rule of thumb to follow is, if you can look at a disk through Workbench, and see drawers, files and so on, then it usually will go on to a hard disk. If it's reported as a 'non-DOS' disk and you can't examine it, then it won't.

As for the copyright laws, I understand that the medium you use to store programs (floppy disks, hard disks, or PCMCIA disks) isn't the issue, so long as they are all plugged into the same system. Copyright is only challenged when you use one program on more than one computer.

Q What's the best virus killer that works on all Amigas?

A *Virus Checker*, written by John Veldthuis, widely available from PD libraries and up to version 6.22 as I write this. Do beware though – some people put viruses on virus killer disks. Always check the disk with the program before you use it to go through your entire disk collection to wipe off viruses.

Also, never wipe an 'unknown bootblock' – it's almost certainly a custom loader, rather than a virus that the program doesn't know. Wiping custom loaders destroys your game! Only wipe when the program positively identifies a virus.

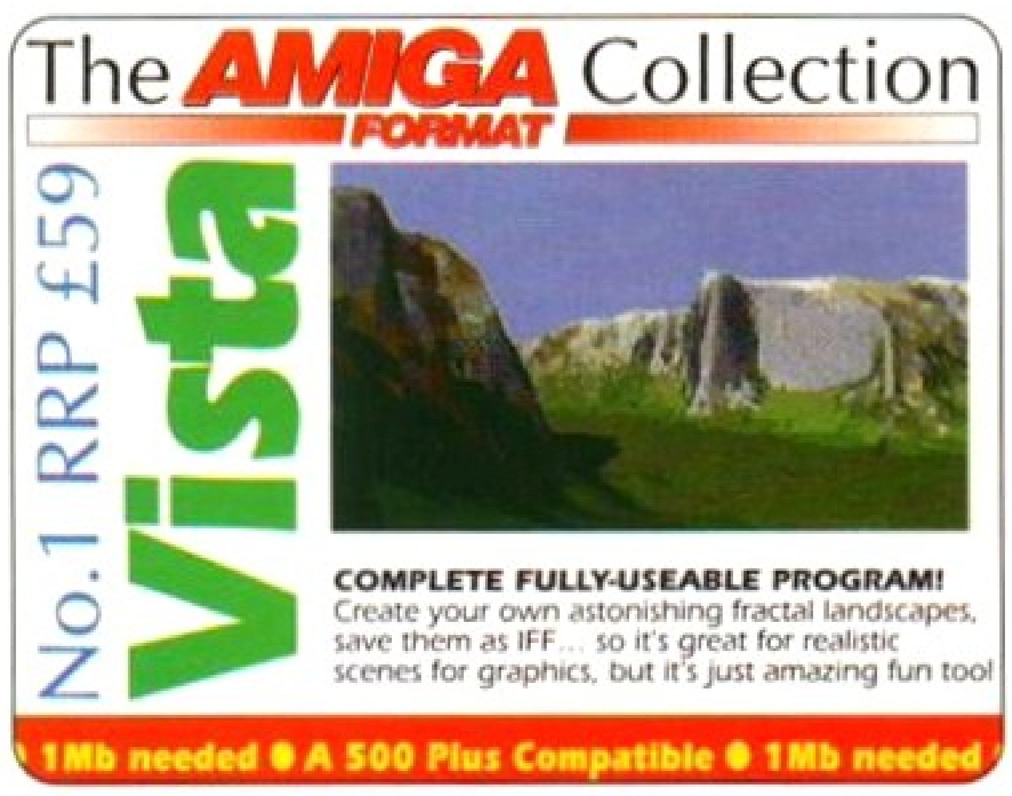
Q How do I find out which AmigaDOS commands are in the Kickstart ROM of an Amiga, rather than on a Workbench disk? I know 'Version' is in Kickstart 2, and the 'Why' and 'CD' commands are in Kickstart 3, but there must be a way to find them all!

A Simply type this into a Shell command:

```
Resident
```

If you are using Workbench 3, then you will need to hold down both mouse buttons on boot-up and disable the startup sequence. The Resident command is used on Workbench versions 1.3 and above to load commands from disk into memory, to save the hassle of loading them every time they are used.

Q How do I get the *Amiga Format* Collection program *Vista* (*AF33*) to work on my A1200? I've tried everything!



***Vista* was our first Collection Coverdisk, and it will work on a 1200. It won't work straight from the disk though.**

A Oh no you haven't. Hold down both mouse buttons on start-up. Select graphics options, and switch the Enhanced Chip Set on. Go to the menu, and select Boot options. Click in the box labelled 'Disable CPU Caches' – a tick will appear. Then disable the startup-sequence, and boot the machine. Finally, type this at the prompt which should appear:

```
Vista_A500_Plus
```

The specific chip RAM/ECS version of *Vista* will then load. Regrettably, because you have to turn off the CPU cache, it only runs about 1.8-times faster than on an A500 – but that's better than it not working at all.

Q I have an old C64 1541 disk drive. Is it possible to connect this to the Amiga?



A stalwart of the computer industry, the 1541 drive can be interfaced to an Amiga to play C64 disk games.

A Sort of. If you get the A64 shareware C64 emulator, then it gives details of how to obtain an adaptor to plug in such a drive to an Amiga. Questronix (PO Box 340285, Hartford, CT06134 0285) sell the adaptor for $30. But you can't use a 1541 as an Amiga drive – it's only for loading C64 software that comes on disk.

A64 can also load C64 programs from tape, if you have a sound sampler connected to your Amiga. You have to put the tape in a conventional tape player, and plug the sound into the sound sampler.

Q What is an emulator?

A An emulator is a solution, either just on disk or a combination of disks plus some hardware, to enable an Amiga to run software from a different computer platform. Although this sounds great in theory, emulators never run all the software that they should.

A CBM (or Vortex Golden Gate) Bridgeboard is a sophisticated emulator which lets you run practically all IBM PC software on an Amiga. Sadly, it only plugs into an A1500 or higher machine. The reason why it's so good is because it's literally an IBM PC on a card – a completely separate computer within the same case.

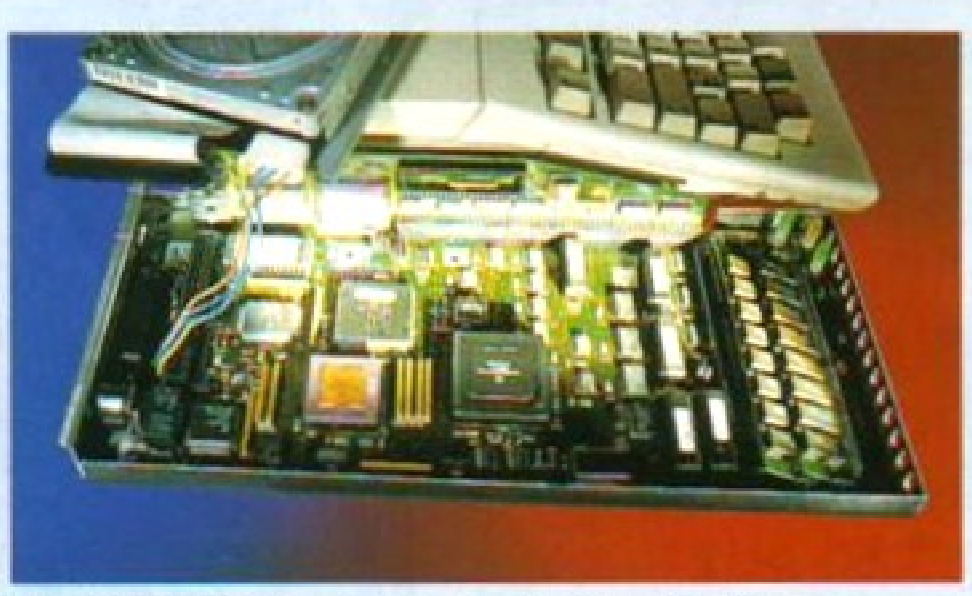
Q Can I just open a Public Domain library or do I need a licence?

A No, you don't need a licence. If you're under 18, get permission from your parents, and make sure they understand what you are doing. Remember, though, that running a PD library is not an easy, fast way to make money – it requires a lot of dedication, and hard work, because PD libraries are supposed to merely cover their costs and make only the small profit required to stay in operation. Good luck with it!

Q I currently own an A500. If I bought a GVP A530 hard drive/accelerator combo, would I be able to run software written especially for the A1200?

A Not if the program needs the AA chip set that uses the new 256-colour or HAM8 screens, because the A500 doesn't have them. Mind you, if a given program didn't need them, then an A530 would run the program much faster than an A1200.

A1200s have a 68020 CPU running at 14Mhz. An A530 has a 68030 running at 40Mhz. The difference in computing speed is therefore quite a lot, but the AA chip set moves graphics around much faster than the older ECS or original chip sets. So really, an A1200 is a much better option – it gives you a higher starting level upon which to expand your system. If you ONLY want extra speed, an A530 is worth considering.

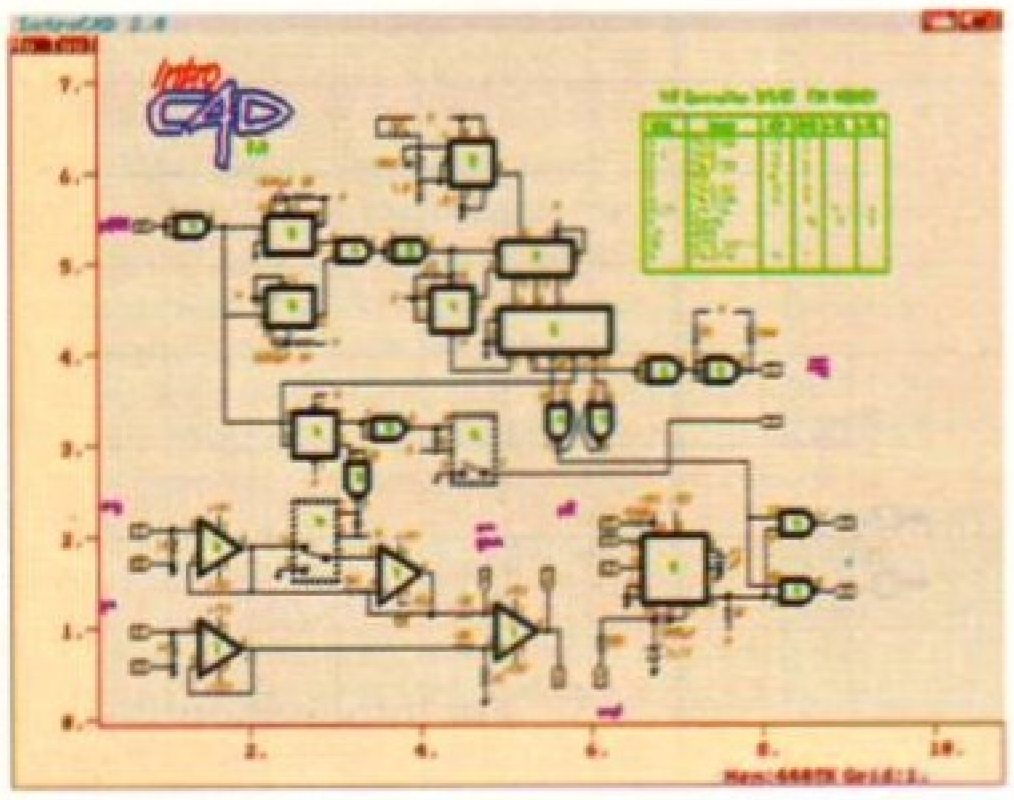


The GVP A530 accelerator and hard drive gives you a very fast A500, but it doesn't improve your graphics.

Q **What does CAD stand for?**

A Computer Aided Design – designing objects on a computer screen rather than on a drawing board. Industry uses it to enable Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) to build components like engine pistons, turbine fan blades and other absolute precision-based manufacturing. CAD has its roots in the Apollo space program.

These days, CAD is used for much more than precision engineering. Architects, archaeologists, fashion designers and others have all taken to CAD in a big way. If you want to see what CAD is like, get *IntroCAD* on ***Amiga Format*** 38. Just remember, if you want printouts from it you must load Workbench first, and double click on the *IntroCAD* icon.



An ideal introduction to Computer Aided Design, *IntroCAD* is fairly simple, quite fast and cheap.

Q **What is an FPU?**

A Floating Point Unit. Essentially a chip that's very good at doing maths involving fractions, something that traditional CPUs are not very good at. CPU stands for Central Processing Unit – the chip that makes the decisions and runs programs.

Q **What does MHz mean? Does it refer to the speed of a computer?**

A MegaHertz. Hertz is a measure of frequency – how often something happens per second. One Hertz means that one operation is carried out per second. Mega stands for millions, so 7 MHz means seven million times per second.

MegaHertz refers to the clock that is inside the computer, which determines how fast they operate. Don't get this confused with real-time clocks that remember the time, and record this information when saving files (date stamping).

Yes, it is a measure of speed, but only a rough guide. A far more important factor in measuring how fast a computer goes is the number of bits (binary digits) it uses. This refers to the amount of memory that can be plugged in at once – 'address bus width' – and the amount of data it can shift around in one clock cycle- 'data bus width'. The original Amigas up to the A600 are all 16-bit, whereas the A1200, A3000 and A4000 are all 32-bit.

Feeling a little bit confused? The best way to visualise this is to imagine pipes carrying water. Think of the water as information, and you're there. Obviously, 32 pipes can carry more information than 16 pipes, if the information is being pumped at the same speed.

In-depth explanation No 14: floppies



There are many different makes and models of floppy drive, but the way they work is usually as Commodore intended. Beware of buying a drive unless you test it – that's the only way to guarantee that it works. If you are unlucky enough to acquire an incompatible drive, you are legally covered. Such a drive is 'unfit for the purpose' and so a refund can be got if you are patient.

1 One of the great causes of hair loss to new Amiga owners is the constant swapping of floppy disks. The most cost-effective way to save your hairline is to buy an external drive. If possible, always test a drive with your machine before you buy it. In general, the slower the drive, the more reliable it is.

2 Commodore deliberately set a low standard for floppy drives, in order to be able to use as many different makes in the Amiga as possible – more choice equals lower prices. Many third-party drives go faster than official Commodore ones. But these faster drives can be incompatible with later machines. Also, machine-code programmers sometimes step outside these boundaries because their faster routines work on their development machines. Such faster routines will fall over on many Amigas.

3 As stated in *Amiga Format*, certain drives (the Power PC880B, the Roctec Roclite) were incompatible with both the A600 and A1200. This is not true of new drives today – the manufacturers have since upgraded their designs to meet the standards. But, beware of buying secondhand drives – always test a secondhand drive before you buy it, both for writing to disks as well as reading, to make sure it works.

4 Up to three external floppy drives can be connected to the A500/A500 Plus. A600 and A1200, so long as two of them have through ports to plug the connectors into. The only drive I am aware of which does not have this feature is the Commodore A1011 – a truly terrible drive. Each floppy drive takes up about 30K of chip RAM. That's why most external drives have disable switches on, for when you need every bit of memory that you can scrape together.

5 The A1500s have two floppy drives built into the machine. A2000s, A3000 and the A4000 have an empty bay for fitting an extra drive. Except for the A3000, these serious Amigas also have provision for a 5.25-inch drive. Unfortunately, an A1500 without extra memory can not run certain pieces of software, because you cannot easily disable the extra built-in drive. The point is that these serious Amigas need a fair bit of memory (2Mb or more) in order to both use extra drives and be compatible with memory-hungry programs.

6 Because floppy drives have many moving parts and also have open slots to put the disks in, they wear out. The lifetime depends on how hard you use the drive. A drive should last at least three years before it commonly has problems. Five years is an average figure. If you play games all day long, expect trouble much sooner.

7 Drives can be refurbished (dismantled, cleaned, recalibrated and reassembled) but this is unusual. It costs more to pay an engineer to do this than it costs to pay for a whole new drive! New drives usually have residue from manufacturing (minute solder blobs, steel slivers and grease) and so it's worthwhile to vacuum clean new drives before you make use of them.

8 Common gadgets to use with drives are: anti-click boards, to make them work quietly; boot switchers, which let you boot software from any drive (redundant with Workbench 2 or 3); and Cyclone copiers, which attempt to synchronise internal and external drives. Cyclones are rather old now, and a lot of commercial software is still uncopyable even if you have a Cyclone. Buying or selling Cyclones is not illegal, but using them to copy software for other people is a breach of the 1988 copyright laws.

9 You can get software utilities for floppy drives too. Programs like the Public Domain *Disksalv* or the commercial *Quarterback Tools* and *BAD* are used to fix corrupted disks. *CrossDOS* and *Mac-To-DOS* are for reading foreign disk formats from the PC and Macintosh into the Amiga. The latter program requires a Macintosh floppy disk drive too. *CrossDOS* is now included with Workbench 3, and there are rumours of Workbench 2.1 which has the same feature.

10 At present, Amiga disk drives (except in the A4000) are double density. What this means is that you can fit about 880K of data on each disk. Commodore have recently stated their commitment to high-density drives, which (with the right disks) will let you put 1.6Mb of data on each disk. Don't hold your breath for this though. It was scheduled with the release of Workbench 2 (1988) and still has not occurred. It will happen one day, and some companies (notably KCS) have said they will produce external high density drives later this year.

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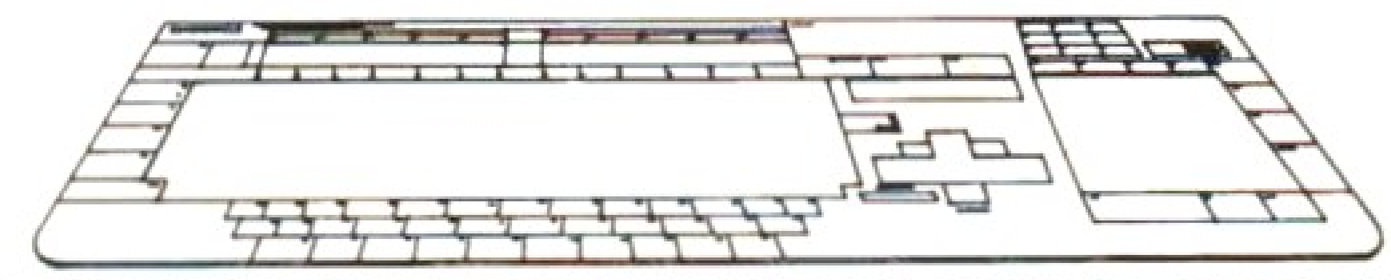
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AMIGA FORMAT MAIL ORDER, FUTURE PUBLISHING CAREY COURT, SOMERTON, SOMERSET, TA11 6TB.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you move house and want to make sure your copy of the magazine catches up with you, or if you have any other subscriptions enquiry then write to: ***AMIGA FORMAT*** MAIL ORDER, FUTURE PUBLISHING CAREY COURT, SOMERTON, SOMERSET, TA11 6TB.

FAULTY COVERDISKS

The disks are duplicated and stuck on the magazine by a separate firm we employ. If you have a faulty disk, send it to them enclosing an SAE.
DISCOPY LABS, UNITS 2 & 3, OMEGA TECHNICAL CENTRE, DRAYTON FIELDS, DAVENTRY, NORTHANTS, NN11 5RT.

Letters

Ever fancied being internationally famous? Well this is your chance, simply write an interesting and informed or contentious opinion down on a piece of paper, as concisely as possible, and send it to Letters, **Amiga Format**, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW. And you could be as internationally renowned as the likes of Andy Stephen or Adam Miller.

CDTV15

Are CDTV owners something of an oddity? I have recently returned from Wembley's International Computer show very disappointed. After travelling all those miles, wallet in hand, thinking 'Now I'll get to buy lots of exciting CD software', not only was there no decent software there, but when I enquired at one of the stalls, I was stunned to hear the retort "CDTV, I never realised that anyone had one."

OK so CDTV is still under development, but are we always going to be treated like 'Creatures From The Black Box Lagoon'? Also, will *Amiga Format* Live feature CDTV?

Andy Stephen

CDTV owners are somewhat of an oddity, not meaning to be offensive, but it's hardly your average machine is it? Apart from being the world's first CD home multimedia unit, it can also run some (but not all) of the Amiga's vast collection of software. Yet despite this and its undeniably attractive black appearance, it has failed to take the home computer market by storm.

Never fear though, we are sure the Big C are working on CDTV 2, which we expect to have the AGA chip set, and if that doesn't improve the popularity of CDTV, nothing will. Though let's hope they stop bleating about the possibility of Kodak Photo CD compatibility and actually do it. Any stall holders failing to realise the potential of the CDTV market place will be cutting their own throat in the long run.

As for the Amiga Format Live *show, since it has the complete support of Commodore themselves, I'll warrant there will be a fair number of CDTV products on show. The stuff we've seen from Psygnosis, most notably* Dracula *and* Microcosm*, look very impressive.*

A HARD LIFE

I am writing to comment on Commodore's policy on A1200 hard drive installation. It appears that some dealers are taking advantage of their company's official dealership rights to install official Commodore HD systems. In their advert, Indi Direct state that "Other dealers may not be offering approved A1200HD product and are therefore infringing Commodore copyright and on-site warranty."

This is a grossly unfair situation as the 'smaller fry' such as ourselves are excluded from Commodore's official list! Only a very few select dealers are approved. This smells like a cartel-like operation, and should be made known to the public. How can we compete in this highly competitive market when we are not allowed to play on a level pitch?

At the end of the day, it is the customer who decides where they obtain their computer and it's only fair that they are made aware of why only certain options are made available to them.

No dealer with any business sense would attempt hard drive installation or upgrades unless he had competent engineers. At the First Computer Centre we have years of innovative engineering experience. It is only fair that specialist, knowledgeable and ethical companies should be given the kind of support they deserve from Commodore.

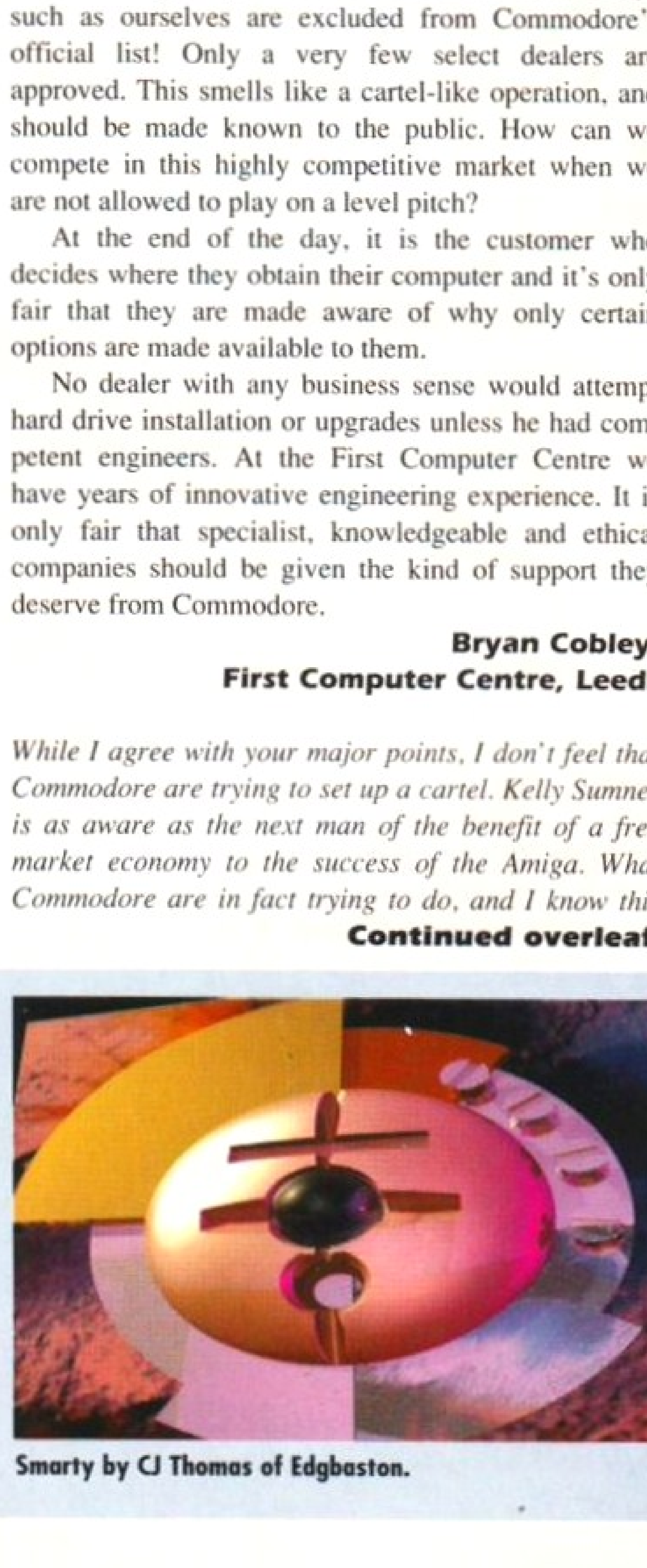
Bryan Cobley,
First Computer Centre, Leeds

While I agree with your major points, I don't feel that Commodore are trying to set up a cartel. Kelly Sumner is as aware as the next man of the benefit of a free market economy to the success of the Amiga. What Commodore are in fact trying to do, and I know this

Continued overleaf

The Gallery Sponsored by Max Graphics

Got a picture you're proud of? Send it in, see it in print and win an *Amiga Format* binder! Since Letters is where you get to contribute your words, we thought it would be the perfect place to see your pictures on display too. The best image every month will win a huge (and we're talking big here) poster printout, courtesy of Max Graphics of Cardiff – worth a massive £80. Send your entries on a floppy disk to The Gallery, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW.



Smarty by CJ Thomas of Edgbaston.

from a conversation I overheard at their headquarters recently, is protect the interests of the end user. If the Big C offered to honour the warranty of any HD installed Amiga, users could fall prey to the shabby work of some opportunist company offering to install drives. It is now incumbent on Commodore to extend their official HD installation service to reputable companies like yourselves among others, and give their customers freedom of choice.

A1200 COMPATABILITY

I am about to purchase an A1200 computer. When reviewing software could you please state whether they will work on the A1200 or not.

According to adverts placed by Special Reserve, neither *Indiana Jones* and the *Fate of Atlantis* or *Legends of Valour* work on the A1200.

Are they right or what?

R A Platt, Crewe

We work on the principle that all games issued now will work with the A1200, after all it has been available for about six months now. If they don't work, we say so, otherwise you can assume that they do. It was mainly pre-Workbench 2 games that were incompatible, so most games released in the last 18 months are fine. Special Reserve's list is not totally accurate; it is unlikely that they've actually had the time to test all the games themselves. They may be relying on information from the publishers of the games.

We have played Indy Jones *on the A1200, so as far as we are aware it is compatible;* Legends of Valour *isn't completely without problems on the A1200, but there are ways to get it to work. Try shrinking the screen size right down, and then cranking it back up again, or running it on the original chip set setting with the CPU caches disabled. Failing either of these working, call US Gold on 021-625 3366 and they'll send you another disk.*

UPGRADE UNCERTAINTY

I write to you from my hospital bed – I have been here a week and am getting serious Amiga withdrawal symptoms. They can't work it out! It could have been as I came around from the anaesthetic but I started dreaming about Amigas. Funny woman huh?

I need your advice and I expect hundreds of readers are asking the same question – do I swap my current Amiga for a new A1200? My set-up is as follows – 1Mb A500 Plus, WTS 4Mb external RAM expansion, PC880B and a Citizen 224 colour printer.

As a busy mum I don't have loads of time for computing. In the 11 months of having the A500 Plus I've tried to learn as much as possible and don't know whether I'm now classed as a beginner. The computer is used for word processing, DTP, and painting with *Deluxe Paint*. Sometimes games are played on it too. I would like to be able to understand these things so I can try and help my young children who now use educational programs.

What I don't want is to be stuck in a few years time, unable to trade in or sell my A500 Plus to go up the ladder. This happened years ago with my Oric. Is there a version of *Oric Ultra* for the Amiga?

The reason I'm asking this now is because after reading ***Amiga Format*** 44, I really want to get a hard drive. But before I make this investment, I have to decide whether to stick with my present computer or go for an A1200, because I understand that hard disks are not compatible between them.

Also, I'm a bit confused about the availability of hard drive software for the A1200. Do you need the official Commodore version of install software as Indi Direct are advertising? And finally – where has Damien Noonan gone?

E Sherrin, Leighton Buzzard

Here at Amiga Format *we are firmly of the opinion that the A1200 is worth upgrading to, in fact several of us have, and it's our own money, we don't get freebies (drats!). The longer you wait, the less you are likely to get for your A500, but the upgrade situation isn't too bad. Your printer will work with the A1200, and if your PC880B doesn't, Power (0234 843388) will update it for £15. A PCMCIA 4Mb expansion for your A1200 will set you back about £199.*

The question you have to ask yourself though is why are you upgrading? Is it because you need the new screen modes offered by the AGA chip set, or is it just to keep up with the latest thing? Your set-up is quite impressive, and unless you need the extra colours, upgrading will definitely cost. If you are planing to buy a hard drive though, judicious selling of your A500 and 4Mb expansion could see you upgrading to a similar A1200 complete with hard drive for the same as you would pay for the A500 drive.

Damien Noonan has gone to find nirvana.

PD PREPWARE

I have just upgraded my A500 to an A1200 and I would like to obtain a hard drive for it. Is there any software available to aid in the setting up of an IDE hard drive? I am not thinking of buying the drive from my Amiga dealer, so can you give me the exact specifications of the drive I will need?

Neil Capel, Uckfield

The software you will need is not easily available. Commodore do not provide it with the A1200, but we feel that they should. If you know anyone with an A600HD, you can use their software. Otherwise you are stuck. Many independent Amiga dealers, like First Computer Centre in Leeds, have written their own software, which they provide with drives purchased from them, but if as you state, you are going to buy the drive from a non-Amiga source, you will have to 'borrow' someone else's software, which is verging on piracy.

What this situation needs is either for the Big C to freely distribute their set-up software, or for someone to write some, and put it into the Public Domain. So come on all you cool coders, get hacking and place some IDE set-up utilities in the PD. You'll have lots of very appreciative users.

PIRATES AHOY

It seems that many 'pirate boards' have fixes to make old games work with the A1200 (*Speedball 2* and *Elite* are just two examples). Why is it that these people who are 'destroying the industry' are able to do what none of the software companies seem able or willing to do? I am sure many users would like an official upgrade service, rather than being forced to use illegal means.

I think that it shows that these pirates have their good side. I look forward to your comments, and those of the software companies who seem to think that the incompatibility problems are all Commodore's fault.

Adam Miller, Harlow

While this 'service' is useful to new A1200 owners let down by the incompatibility of their favourite games, it still amounts to piracy. Rather than showing the good side of pirates, it merely reaffirms that they love cracking games and 'improving' them.

If you have recently upgraded and found your favourite game incompatible, try contacting the software house first. We have heard several stories from readers who have had a great deal of success in obtaining upgrades to games from the publishers.

CHEAPWALKER

I am writing to express the anger and dismay that I feel towards the Ocean company, and their involvement in the Comic Relief charity game *Sleepwalker*.

I understand that Ocean will be donating 40 per cent of the profits made to Comic Relief (which is better than nothing) but WHY NOT 100 per cent?

Ocean are making a profit 365 days a year from their usually young, male customers, but on no account do Ocean give anything back or care for the welfare of the people who have enabled them to become the profitable company they now are.

These young male customers could well be students such as myself with very little money for luxuries, but have still gone out and bought Ocean games no matter how poor (*Epic* for example).

I strongly believe that this time Ocean are well out of order; making a profit on the back of other people's misfortune is simply not on, and I hope that there are

Continued overleaf



Any Which Way by J M'Connell of Belfast.



Mario by Jason Hammour aged 6.



Dogfight by Stefan de Schipper from the Netherlands.

DATA PROTECTION

PRIZE

First of all, let me cushion the blow by saying that I have been reading your magazine since issue one of ***ST/Amiga Format***. And what an interesting and amusing magazine it is. Your Collection Coverdisks with a full program on them are marvellous – it's a crying shame you are no longer doing them.

However I read your article on databases (***AF***43, explaining *ProData*, with the rather delicious picture of Mademoiselle Paradis) with horror. On the one hand you condemn software pirates, discouraging users from breaking the copyright act, and on the other you positively encourage users to break the 1984 Data Protection Act. OK – names and addresses aren't necessarily confidential information, fair point. But under the act, individuals have the right to know what information is stored about them by those registered under the act. And anyone holding information about individuals and not registering is in breach of the law. At least that is how I have always been lead to understand. Maybe you should have included information about the act in your article, and how to register – if you're intending storing information about individuals.

What are the magazine's views on the matter?

M J Davage, Gwent

You are undoubtedly correct, anyone collecting and storing data about individuals on computerised systems is bound by law to register with the Data Registrar. Our attitude on this is as tediously sanctimonious as our one on computer piracy. So if you are going to store anything more than a simple address book, get yourself registered with the Data Protection Registrar.

MAGNETIC PULP FICTION

PRIZE

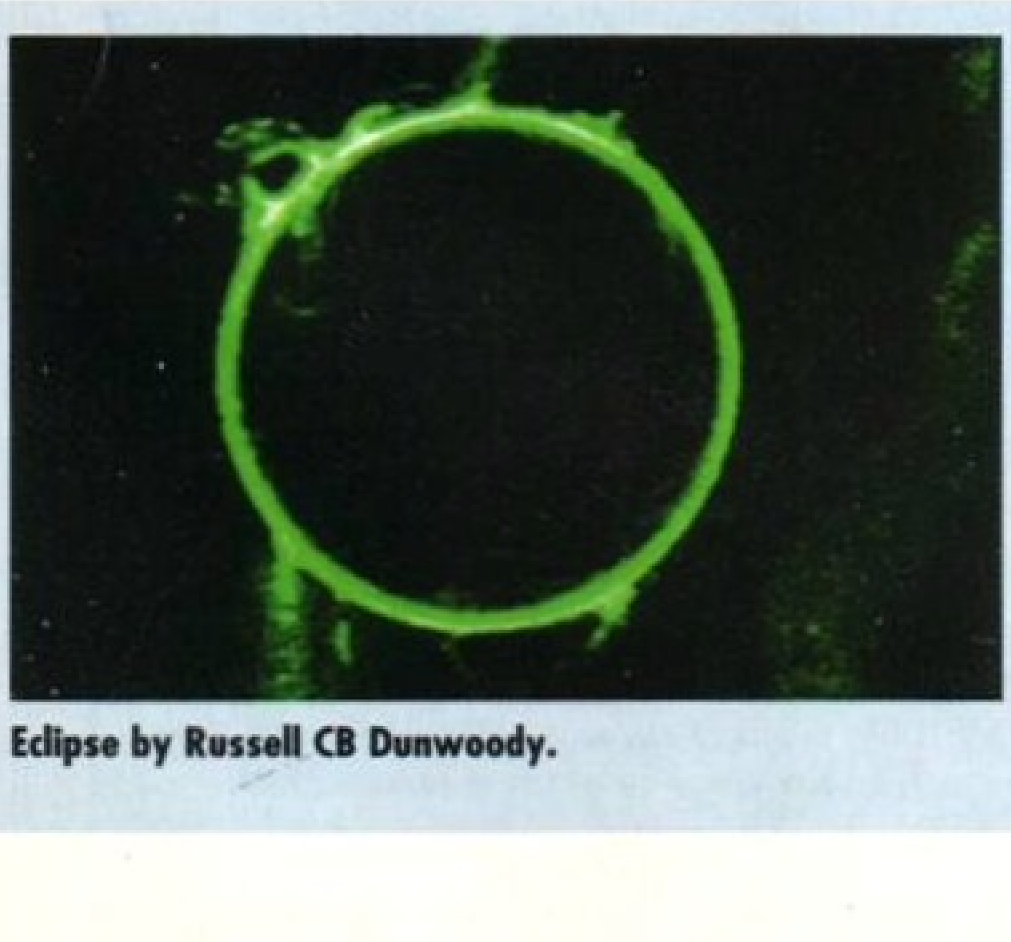
Do you remember those old, slightly ropey science fiction periodicals from the forties and fifties? You know, the ones with names like *Astounding Science Fiction!* and *Bowel Shattering Tales to Flabbergast You!* No, neither do we. However these were the organs through which such great names as the late grandmaster of science fiction, Isaac Asimov, took his first tentative steps towards literary fame. Sadly there are very few similar journals in circulation today.

Perhaps, somewhere out there in the infinite reaches of the universe there are other novice writers who, like ourselves, feel the need for a platform where they can present their creations. Addressing this need, we intend to launch an SF-orientated Public Domain diskzine under the moniker of *The Quatermass Experiment*. Despite our best efforts, we cannot fill an entire disk with *Astounding*-like stories ourselves every few months, so we are appealing to ***Amiga Format*** readers (all 144,000 of them) for their contributions. Sci-fi stories of any description are welcome, and we promise to use as many as possible. We don't know if Stuart Neil Hardy is into SF, but we would even accept something from him. Maybe.

You don't get it all your own way though. We require ASCII files only please, because we don't have access to every Amiga word processor. Science fiction has ambiguous boundaries, so we are prepared to accept a wide range of styles and topics. We reserve the right to amend stories if necessary. Remember to keep a copy of your work. We are a non-profit making organisation, but if you fancy seeing your work in print, albeit on a monitor, get writing (yes, even you Marcus) because we hope to release the first issue later this year.

Professor Quatermass and Doctor Roney
15 Whinfield Drive
Kinross, KY13 7UB

Erm... we think this is A Good Thing. So court the muse and get writing!



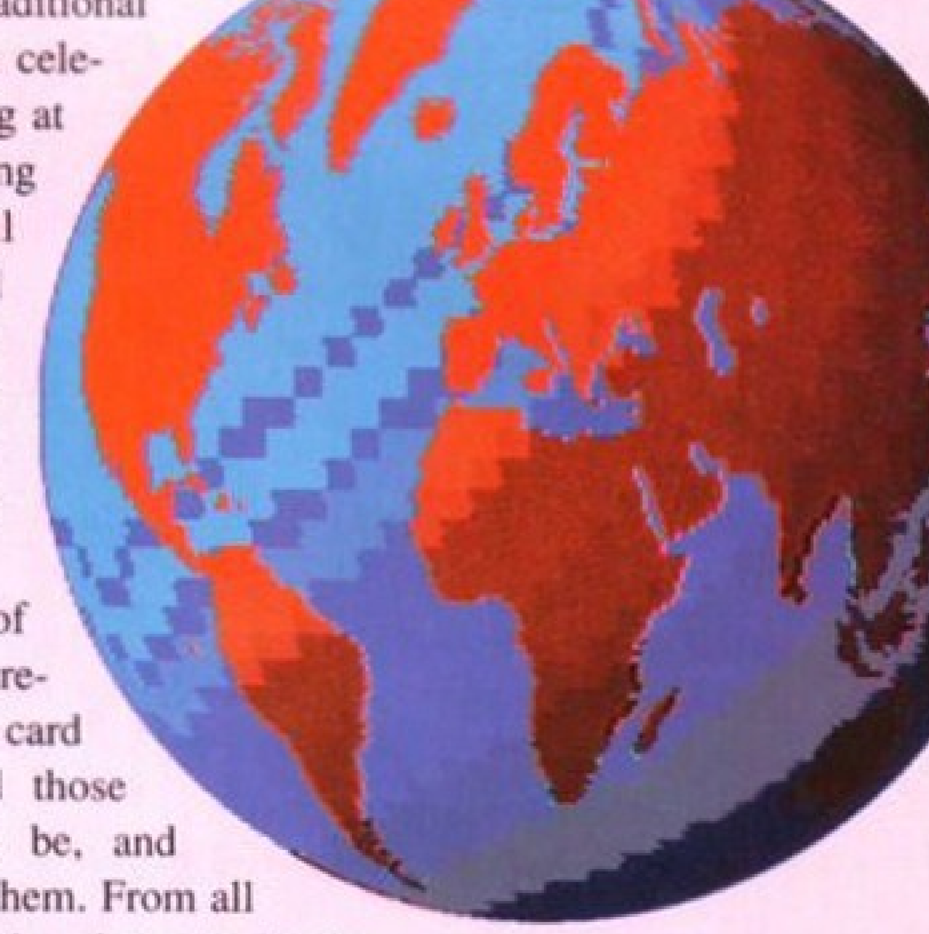
Eclipse by Russell CB Dunwoody.

The Gallery Sponsored by Max Graphics

Next month

Issue 47 June 1993

The World of Commodore



The June issue of ***Amiga Format*** makes its world debut at the *Amiga Format Live* show on May 7. The show takes the place of the traditional World of Commodore show and in celebration of that fact, we'll be looking at the world of Commodore, and seeing who does what with the Amiga all around this little blue sphere we call home. We'll be talking to those in the know in the USA, home of the Amiga and bringing you a report from the World of Commodore exhibition in New York.

From Australia, home of *OpalVision*, we'll be talking to the creators of the fantastic budget 24-bit card and finding out just how good those *OpalVision* add-ons are going to be, and exactly when we can expect to see them. From all around Europe we'll be taking a look at how the Amiga is fairing, how many people are using it and what they are using it for. Find out why the Amiga is the world's number one home computer next month in ***Amiga Format***, the world's number one Amiga magazine.

The Amiga 4000/30



As reported in this month's news column, this is an exciting time for Amiga owners, with one new machine for sure, and the prospect of more before the year is out. Next month we take the first full look at the new Amiga 4000 and explore the implications of its release. Is it the mid-range machine everyone's been waiting for, or is it just an expensive alternative to the A1200.

Waiting for you at your local shop from **May 13!**

people out there who agree with me, even if it's only a little bit.

Ben Wilcock, Wigan

I really don't know how to answer this one. Firstly, I'd like to say that Comic Relief actually prefer that a company donates only part of the profits from a commercial project to them. This gives the company an incentive to promote the project, and ensure that it does well. Ocean could have given all the profits from an altogether less successful game to Comic Relief, but instead they decided to devote a proportion of what is likely to be one of their biggest games of the year.

I sincerely doubt that when you begin working for your living you will give 40 per cent of your disposable income to charity. Rather than attacking Ocean, who have displayed incredible generosity towards charity, why not have a go at some of the many companies who give nothing?

I also think that the fact that you (even on your tight student budget) buy computer games with no apparent discrimination, says something about your circumstances. Why not read the reviews, then if a game you were intending to buy turns out to be crap, give the money to charity instead.

HARD LOGIK

We read with interest your review of *Art Expression* in the March 1993 issue. But however, there is an inaccuracy in the article.

The review states that *Art Expression* can handle DR2D files, explaining that it's "a rare format that is hardly used these days", and that the program "Only provides limited support for Gold Disk's 'Clip' format... the most popular format for structured drawings on the Amiga."

This is not true. IFF DR2D is the only Commodore approved structured drawing file format for the Amiga. It is supported by *ProVector*, *PageStream*, *TypeSmith*, *Art Expression*, *Sign Engine* and *The Publisher*, and is being added to other programs at this time. The *ProDraw* clip format is not available to Amiga developers because it is a 'secret' format. We spent many man hours reverse engineering the Clip format to allow conversion from Clip to DR2D.

The important fact to note is that *Art Expression* can load four formats (*Art Expression* EPS, *Illustrator* EPS, *IFF DR2D* and *Aegis Draw*) and comes with a convertor for a fifth (*ProDraw* Clip), while *ProDraw* can only load its own format. Also, *Professional Page 4* and *PageStream 2.2* can both load *Art Expression* EPS files directly.

The reviewer also ignored two important differences between *Art Expression* and *Professional Draw*:

- *Art Expression* can be used without a hard drive. *Professional Draw* requires a hard drive.
- *Art Expression* can be used on the A1200 and A4000. *Professional Draw 3* does not work on any AGA.

Since the A1200 is the new darling of the UK market, and since most UK users do not have hard drives, it seems strange that these facts were omitted. On a more positive note, we enjoyed seeing the example of converting the lemming from a bitmap into an *Art Expression* drawing.

Michael Loader
Product development, Soft Logik

The UK market had been dominated for so long by ProDraw, *until the release of* Expert Draw *and* Art Expression, *that the Clip format had become a de facto standard. Things are different now though, and with the improvements announced in last month's news,* Art Expression *is well worth the attention of any A1200 owners who need a structured drawing package.*

...GREATLY EXAGGERATED

I have often laughed at stories about people reading their own obituaries, but in all honesty, as with most things in life, when it happens to you, it's not so funny!

My wife had a phone call from one of the authors contracted to RBF Software (that's me by the way), saying how shocked and sorry he was to read that I had passed away and wanted to know what would happen about his program. Well, after getting over the shock, my wife asked me what the hell was going on. After phoning the author back I discovered that on Page 13 of *Amiga Format Special 4*, I am referred to as the late Ray Burt-Frost!!!!

I think it's time to set the record straight, and many thanks to the guys at ***Amiga Format*** for allowing me this space in their excellent magazine. I am now able to give the following information as the truth, the whole truth etc.

After my becoming ill and discovering that I had a brain tumour, the specialists have given me anything between one and 10 years. Naturally, I hope that it is going to be 10. I decided that I wanted more free time so I passed Amiganuts over to my old friend Mark Meany. RBF Software however, is still in operation and holds the copyright to such world famous programs as *OctaMED*, these being sold primarily by Amiganuts here and in Australia.

Would authors old and new please note that RBF Software is thriving, and will be pleased to continue receiving your programs for evaluation purposes at the usual address of 169 Dale Valley Road, Hollybrook, Southampton, SO1 6QX. 0703 785680.

If you wish to purchase PD or RBF Software contact Amiganuts at 12 Hinkler Rd, Thornhill, Southampton, SO2 6FT. 0703 470017.

In Australia, contact Amiganuts United, Toowoomba, Queensland. 010-6176 331172.

Finally I would like to thank the many people who have since phoned, it's nice to know just how much people still care about each other.

Ray Burt-Frost, RBF Software

May I offer our heartfelt apologies to you Ray, for saying exactly the wrong thing at the wrong time. Like many other people in the industry, we too are hoping you have 10 years at the very least Ray.

For any readers not familiar with Ray Burt-Frost, he has been instrumental in the distribution of a number of high-quality, low-cost programs, and was founder of Amiganuts, one of the more reputable and important PD houses. We are glad he is still with us, and thank him for his kind words about our mag after we made an almost unforgivable mistake.

UPGRADE QUERIES

I bought my Amiga 500 in late 1988 with a Commodore 1084S monitor and Star LC10 printer. Since then I've added an A501 memory expansion, a DDL 3.5-inch external drive and a Naksha mouse.

The system has served me extremely well, but I'm planning to move on to an A1200. I'm not sure if I can keep my monitor, printer, external disk drive and mouse and just 'plug them in' to the A1200. Should I be thinking of selling/trading my present system in its entirety or not?

Obviously the answer will determine how big a budget I need to be looking at to upgrade my system. If I can simply replace the A500 with an A1200 and keep the rest, I can then consider getting a bigger hard drive and maybe a RAM expansion for the A1200.

I would appreciate your advice.

Ken Allsebrook, Sheffield

You can go ahead and replace the A500 with an A1200, all the peripherals you have mentioned will be compatible, with the exception of the RAM expansion.

ART SEARCH

As part of the on-going development of our disk magazine, the graphics section is being expanded. To this end we are inviting any artists who wish their work to be considered for the Bounty Gallery to submit their work as IFF files (sorry, no AGA as yet) to the address below. We would specifically like to hear from Nils Erichsen, Mark Lockett and W Williams who have appeared in the ***Amiga Format*** Gallery.

If they send an SAE all entrants will receive the next monthly issue of Britain's brightest disk mag.

David BH Jones, 23 Grendon Drive
Rugby, Warks, CV21 1UA

PRINTER WINNERS

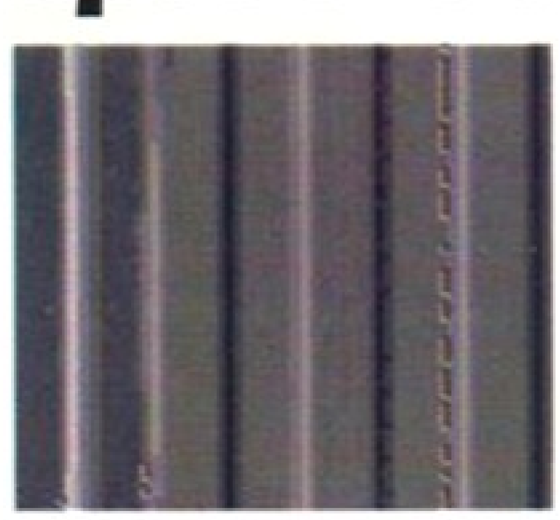
OKI PRINTER COMPETITION

We received what may well have been our largest number of competition entries ever with the Grand Quiz March. Entries poured in at the rate of some 100 per day at the height of the deliveries, and rightly so, there was £2,200 worth of *Format* Gold-winning OKI printers up for grabs.

The lucky winners were, and I think a roll of the drums is in order here...

David Bentley of Bury in Lancashire and Paul Magee of Warlingham in Surrey. The printers will be with you in the near future boys, and we here at *Amiga Format* hope you both enjoy them.

Spot the shot 46



Do you know which Amiga game this is a portion of? Then send us a postcard and you could win a T-shirt. Just put your name, address and the name of the game on the card and post it to us at the following address: Spot the Shot 46, *Amiga Format*, 30 Monmouth St, Bath, BA1 2BW. The first correct entry out of the hat every month will win a fabulous *Amiga Format* T-shirt!



The winner of Spot the Shot 44 is Mr A Whitfield of Chippenham, one of a mere handful who correctly identified *Trolls*, in one of our most difficult Spot the Shots ever. A T-shirt will wend its way to you, Mr W.

RICOH PCL5 LASER PRINTER

LP1200

400 DPI · 2Mb RAM · 6 PPM · £699 + VAT

A4 TEXT/A5 GRAPHICS @ 400dpi • A4 GRAPHICS @ 300dpi. A 2Mb RAM UPGRADE IS REQUIRED TO PRINT A FULL A4 PAGE OF GRAPHICS AT 400dpi

HP LASERJET III™ COMPATIBLE • FLASH ROM UPGRADEABLE!



PC MAGAZINE UK EDITOR'S CHOICE OCTOBER '92

FREE! WINDOWS DRIVER v3.1

Ricoh, the world's second largest manufacturer of laser printer engines, have used their expertise to produce a 'first' in laser printers for the world market, the LP1200 with FLASH ROM. HP LaserJet III™ compatible, the LP1200 employs industry proven laser technology. Unlike LED printers, which use light emitting diodes, the LP1200's laser light source is able to produce the most accurate and intense printed images. It has a fast efficient processor and engine, together with a straight paper path design which allows printing at a full 6 pages per minute and, it can address a range of print resolutions up to 400 dpi. The 2Mb RAM version can print a full A4 page of graphics at 300 dpi and a full A4 page of text, or A5 page of graphics, using standard resident internal fonts and the alternate controller firmware supplied, at 400 dpi. A free Windows driver supplied enables the 2Mb Ricoh LP1200 to print a typical page of text at 400 dpi from Windows 3.1, using the alternate controller firmware supplied on the Windows Driver Disk and standard internal resident fonts. The 4Mb RAM version has the added advantage of being able to print a full A4 page of graphics at 400 dpi and makes full use of the LP1200's 400 dpi printing capabilities, such as using Microsoft Windows fonts.

Unique additional standard features include FLASH ROM 'future proof' technology and LAYOUT - a powerful document description language. The LP1200's unique internal FLASH ROM, which holds the printer controller firmware, can easily be updated as new developments in technology occur. This protects the investment you make in buying a Ricoh LP1200. Other manufacturers would require you to buy a new printer! Internal FLASH ROM and industry standard FLASH ROM IC cards can also be used to permanently store fonts, macros, graphics and extra emulations. Again, unlike the competition, the LP1200 includes LAYOUT a powerful document description language as standard, which offers unique opportunities to develop custom made printing systems. Forms and document templates can be designed and stored electronically in the LP1200's FLASH ROM, alleviating the need for pre-printed forms!

The LP1200 comes complete with a 100 sheet A4 paper tray and the facility to feed single sheets of paper and card up to 157gsm. An optional extra universal feeder provides the facility to automatically feed up to 150 sheets, from sizes of 98mm x 148mm to 216mm x 356mm in size, at weights of up to 158gsm. It can also feed up to 15 envelopes, overhead transparencies and labels automatically.

CORPORATE SALES TEAM
Tel: 081-308 0888 Fax: 081-308 0608

SHOWN WITH UNIVERSAL FEEDER TOP TRAY (OPTIONAL EXTRA)

THE LP1200 IS A GENUINE LASER PRINTER AND NOT AN LED PRINTER. MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE COMPETITION!

See how the Ricoh LP1200 compares to its Laser Printer Competitors

FEATURES	EPSON EPL4100	HP L/JET IIIP	M'MAN TALLY MT904+	IBM 4029 Model 010	RICOH LP1200
Average Street Price (excl. VAT) (*expected)	£569	£699	£699*	£750	£699
Official RRP (excl. VAT)	£945	£1,179	£1,099	£1,099	£1,195
Maximum resolution in dots per inch	300 x 300	300 x 300	300 x 300	300 x 300	400 x 400
Windows 3.1 Driver @ 400 dpi	-	-	-	-	YES
Print Speed	6ppm	4ppm	4ppm	5ppm	6ppm
Straight Paper Path	YES	-	-	-	YES
PCL 5 Printer Command Language	-	YES	YES	-	YES
HP-GL/2 Vector Graphics included	-	YES	YES	YES	YES
Resolution Improvement/Enhancement	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Standard RAM	0.5Mb	1Mb	1Mb	1Mb	2Mb
Full A4/300 dpi graphics with standard RAM	-	-	-	-	YES
Warm Up Time	<45 secs	<60 secs	60 secs	33 secs	45 secs
First Page of Text Output	<20 secs	<40 secs	34 secs	20 secs	<15 secs
Document Description Language included	-	-	-	-	YES
Flash ROM	-	-	-	-	YES
Upgradable Firmware	-	-	-	-	YES
IC Card Slot	YES	-	-	YES	YES
Scalable Resident Fonts - in HP LJ III Emulation	-	8	8	0	8
Resident Bit-Mapped Fonts	11	14	14	16	14
AGFA Intellifont Scalable Font Technology	-	YES	-	-	YES
HP LaserJet III Emulation Included	-	YES	YES	-	YES
EPSON FX Emulation Included	YES	-	YES	-	YES
IBM ProPrinter Emulation Included	-	-	YES	-	YES
Standard Tray Capacity	100	70	100	200	100
Protective cover on standard tray	YES	-	YES	YES	YES
Cost per copy**	1.65p	2.00p	1.71p	1.64p	1.65p
Min-Max Paper Weight in gsm	60-157	60-105	60-120	60-131	60-157
Able to print on OHP Film	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Able to print on card (157gsm - Manual Feed)	YES	-	-	-	YES
Standby -Noise Level	<40dB	31.7dB	<35dB	38 dB	<38dB
Printing -Noise Level	<50dB	43.3dB	<46dB	50 dB	<48dB

**As quoted by manufacturers - 2/4/92

All Trademarks are acknowledged

IT'S A WINNER!

Shortly after its launch, the LP1200 had scooped accolades from most of the major press reviewers ...

"The winner is the Ricoh ... its graphics performance is staggering".
Shopper Labs Best Buy
COMPUTER SHOPPER - AUGUST '92

"We liked the Ricoh's speed, extra memory (useful for graphic printing) and full HP LaserJet III emulation with scalable fonts ... running costs, ease of use and documentation are all also good, so this is a well rounded package".
PC PLUS VALUE VERDICT ●●●●
PC PLUS - AUGUST '92

"Compact, quiet and hassle free ... excellent value ..."
PC DIRECT - OCTOBER '92

"The Ricoh stormed ahead of the other printers in mixed page tests ... was consistently the fastest non-PostScript machine in all the tests ... it produced the most impressive pages, with prints consistently clear and well contrasted ... produced some very fine prints at 400dpi".
'WINDOWS' MAGAZINE - JULY '92

COMPUTER SHOPPER BEST BUY AUGUST '92

PC MAGAZINE UK EDITOR'S CHOICE OCTOBER '92

GOLD Dec '92

PC TODAY BEST BUY OCTOBER '92

LASER PRINTER AWARDS What to Buy for business A "BEST BUY" DECEMBER 1992

Consumables + Accessories

CODE	PRODUCT	PRICE Exc VAT
CAB 7500	Cable for PC/ST/Amiga	£8.47
KIT 5200	Laser Starter Kit inc Cable	£12.50
LAA 5238	Universal Feeder (2nd Tray)	£100.00
LAA 5262	2Mb RAM Module	£100.00
LAA 5210	Developer/Toner Cartridge	£65.00
LAA 5225	OPC Cartridge (Drum)	£89.00
LAA 5312	A4 Paper Tray (100 Sheets)	£35.00

CALL FOR A FULL PRICE LIST

*Note: A4 paper tray is already included in the printer price. More A4 trays can be purchased to feed different coloured stationery.

- **6 PAGES PER MINUTE** — Using a straight paper path
- **PCL5 - INC HP-GL/2** — With scalable fonts and vector graphics
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- **400dpi RESOLUTION** — (Default res. - 300dpi. Will address 200, 240 & 400dpi.)
- **2Mb & 4Mb RAM VERSIONS**
- **UNIQUE FLASH ROM** — For controller upgrade and storage
- **IC CARD SLOT** (PCMCIA/JEIDA Compatible) — For programmable FLASH ROM cards
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LP1200 WITH SINGLE BIN & **2Mb RAM** (LAS 5200) — **£699** +VAT = £821.33

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ADVERTISERS INDEX

ACTUAL REALITY

Here are a few of the things that have tickled the fancy of the **Amiga Format** staff over the last month or so…

CAN'T KEEP A DEAD DOG DOWN



Do you remember Tab? You do, don't you, so you're not as young as you pretend. It was the forerunner of modern day diet colas. Created by Coca-Cola, it tasted of pure saccharin – it was so bad that even in the Seventies it was considered awful. But people needed something to help them get into those awful yellow lycra trousers. When Diet Coke came along, Tab expired in no time flat.

But now it's back, for some reason Coca Cola have resurrected a name which one would have thought held too many bad memories, the magenta and yellow can for one, and brought out an altogether new drink to stick the Tab monicker on. The can's still a bit naff, but the drink is great. It's still cola flavoured, and low calorie, but there the similarities end. New Tab is clear, hence the name, and it tastes clean and refreshing. It's already won great favour in the *Amiga Format* offices where our sedentary lifestyles lead us to have spreading wastelines.

VIRUS ALERT

We have had some new viruses brought to our attention, they are not detectable by established virus killers, so be on the look out for…

Maxwell Virus - steals your cache.

Elvis virus - very persistent, just when you think you've finally laid it to rest, someone reports another sighting. Does not corrupt files or boot sector, it just lives in memory.

BCCI - crashes suddenly without warning.

Mansell virus - gets on the hard drive amazingly fast, but usually crashes within three revolutions.

Tecno-Rave virus - loops endlessly.

Thanks to Ian Newby

HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY



Ex-*AF* designer Lam Tang has found an interesting way of avoiding 21st birthday celebrations – he went straight from 20 to 22 years old. Lam, one of the original boat-people, left Vietnam without any documentation. When his family converted his birthday from the Chinese calendar to our own, a miscalculation occurred, and he was led to believe he was born in 1972. That would make Lam 20 years old, but he recent discovered that he was actually born in 1970, and he's missed not only his 21st, but his 22nd birthday too. We say… Happy Birthday to you Lam Tang!

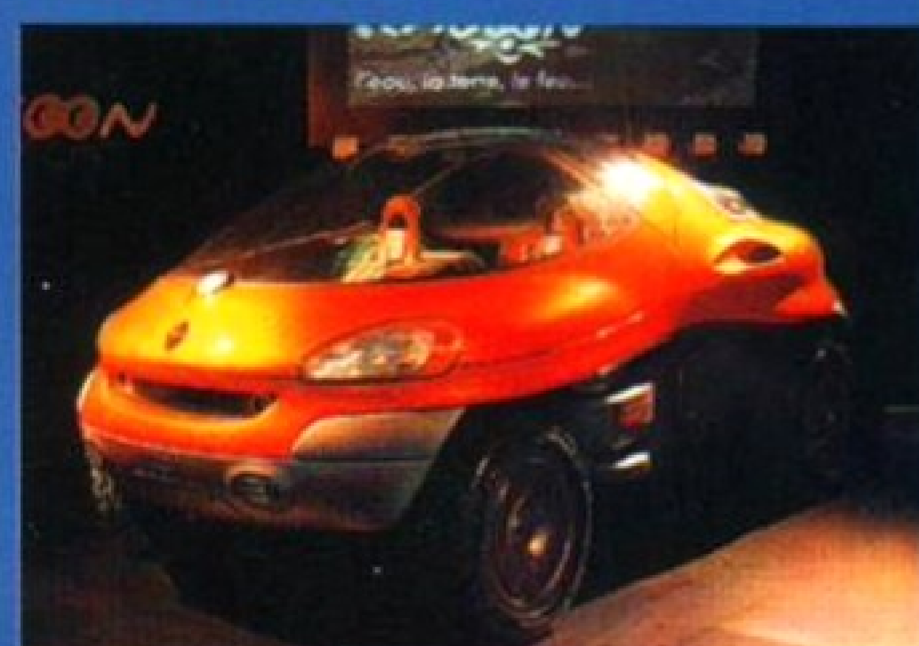
JARGON BUSTING

The world of computers, like many other areas of technical equipment usage has a language all of its own. Here at *AF* we are committed to demystifying jargon, so here we have a list of frequently used computer speak and exactly what it means…

BIT: the smallest thing in the machine
BYTE: a snack, eg a Kit Kat
KILOBYTE: a large snack eg a burger
MEGABYTE: a very large snack eg a doner kebab
RAM: A male sheep
ROM: a male sheep that suffers from dyslexia
CPU: C3PO's little brother
VDU: computer-related sexual disease
DISK BOX: something to protect your floppies in whilst playing cricket
DATA: weird looking bloke from Star Trek: the Next Generation
DATABANK: where he puts his savings
DATABASE: his bedroom
SPREADSHEET: what he sleeps beneath
WORD PROCESSOR: electrical appliance for mixing and blending words
TEXT EDITOR: guy in charge of a paper called *The Daily Text.*

Thanks to Justin Tazewell

OUR KIND OF CAR



The problem with cars is that they're pretty useless at driving through fields, so if you want to get to and from a rave, you have to hoof it. And they're even worse at travelling across water, so if you want to drive from Ambleside to Windermere, the lakeside route is the only one open to you. Unless you have a Renault Raccoon that is… Sporting a 262hp Safrane V6 Turbo engine, this futuristic buggy looks set to go anywhere. It is completely watertight, and has hydraulic jacks for improved ground clearance. It's a concept car at present, but we have just two words for Renault… build it!

Amiga Format Issue 46

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Brian Larkman
James Leach
Jason Holborn
Maff Evans
Patricia Winstanley
Phil South
Sarah Tanser
Amanda Dyson

PHOTOGRAPHY Ashton James, Bradford-on-Avon;

COLOUR ORIGINATORS Phoenix Repro

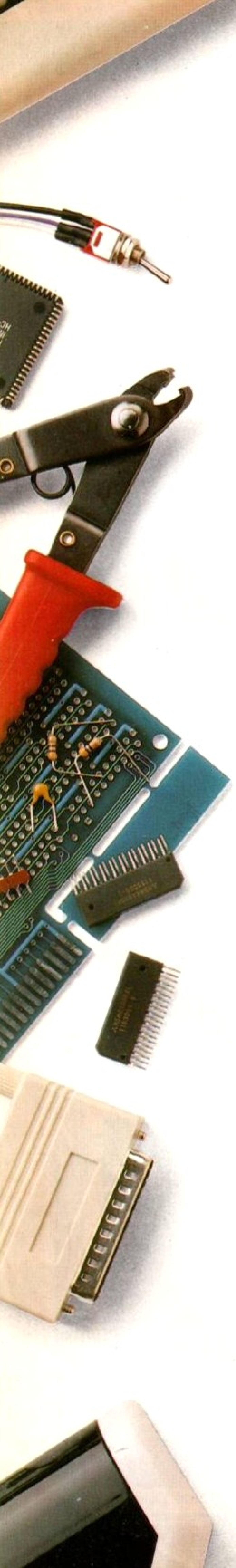
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Future Publishing 0225 442244
NEWS TRADE DISTRIBUTION OVERSEAS:
MMC Ltd 0483 211222
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Sue Hartley 0225 442244

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- Amiga 4000 includes
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- 24-bit graphic card
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OpalVision £699

More information available
OpalVision roaster chip available soon

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- On-site maintenance

CM8833 Mk2 .... £239

Other Monitors

Commodore 1084S £199
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NEC Multisync 4FG £549

ICD Flicker Fixer

Flicker Free Video 2
- Stop that annoying flicker
- Fits internally in the A500
- Multi-sync monitor required

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- The complete music kit for the Amiga
- Includes:
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(Compatible with Amiga, PC, and Mac. A SCSI controller is required on the Amiga and PC)

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- Cost effective mass storage unit
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- External version for A500
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A1500 .... £599

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GVP G-Force
- 68030 accelerator board
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All printers include cables and next day delivery

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Laser LS-5	£699
Laser LS-5EX	£899
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SJ-48	£229

Epson Printers

Laser

EPL-4000	£639
EPL-4300	£799
EPL-8100	£1349

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SQ-1170 (132 column printer)	£629

Dot Matrix

LQ-570	£289
LQ-1070 (132 column printer)	£449
LQ-100	£209
LX100	£189

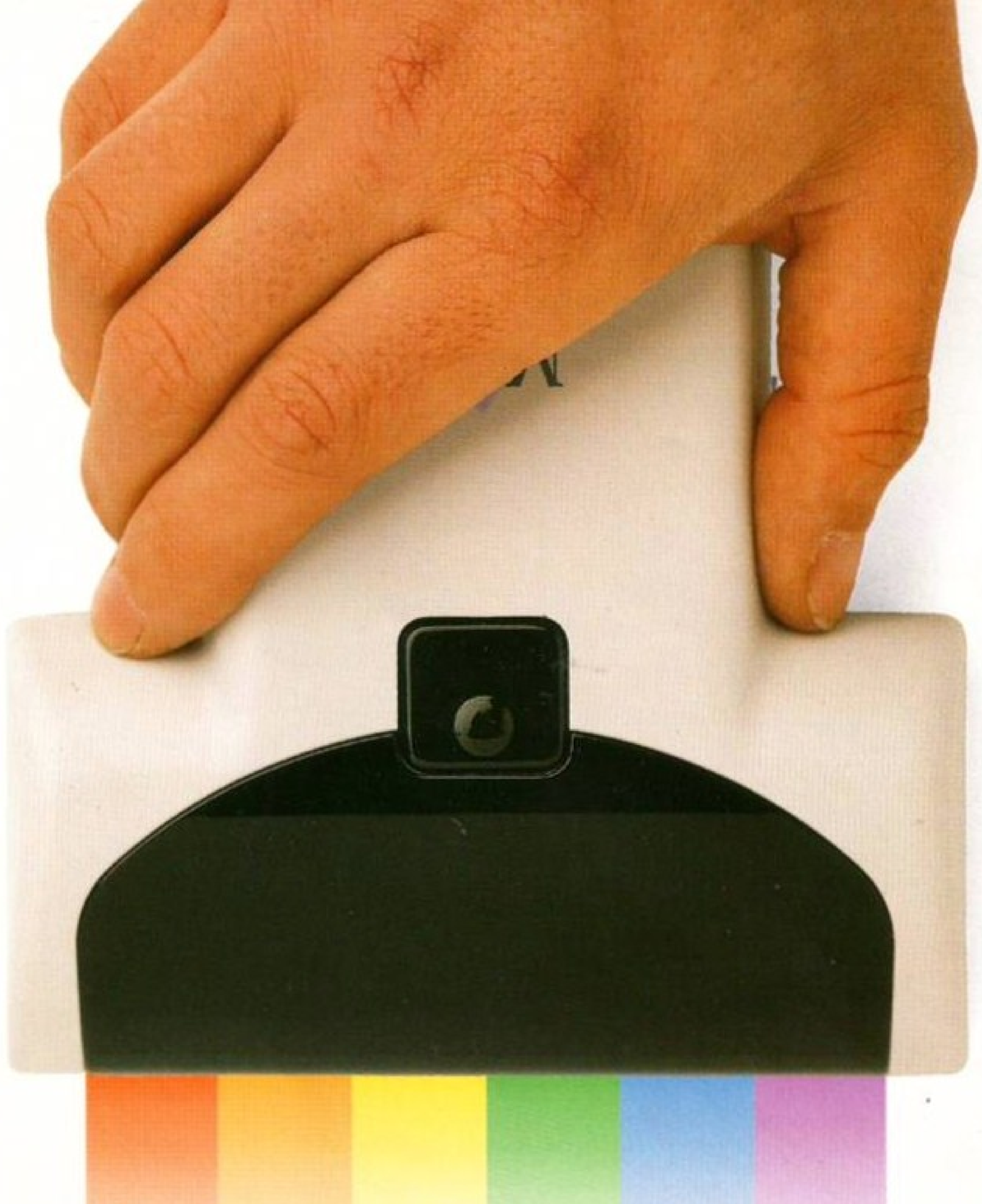
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Supra Fax Modem+ (inc. PSU, cable, software)	£139
Supra Fax Modem 32BIS	£269

Miscellaneous



Power Mouse	£15
Optical Mouse	£29.95
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Colour PowerScan

The Power Computing colour hand-held scanner for the Amiga is now available. This scanner offers the following features

- 4096 colours
- 50-400 DPI
- 4 Scanning modes
- Text
- Greyscale
- Colour halftone
- Colour

The Amiga interface plugs into an A1500/A2000/A3000/A4000 expansion slot with a separate version which connects to the expansion connector of the A500/A500+. The A500 version has a through-port which is compatible with all Amiga 500 expansion peripherals.

The software supplied with this scanner is the new PowerScan Professional 3, which also supports the greyscale scanner and will be available as an upgrade to existing users of PowerScan for £15.

Colour PowerScan v3.0 features

- Real-time 'True-feel' scan option in colour halftone mode
- Images are stored internally as 12-bit graphics, not HAM. This means that no quality is lost due to the Amiga only being able to display HAM images in 4096 colours
- Images are displayed as HAM pictures
- HAM images may be loaded from disk and edited using PowerScan 3
- Image size that can be handled is limited only by the amount of memory available
- Memory does not have to be chip memory as in many art packages
- Images can be saved in various file formats
- View whole image function
- Scale/rotate/skew image or clipboard by any amount
- Crop image
- Clean up, lighten or darken image
- Variable zoom mode
- Draw freehand, lines, circles, boxes and polygons in various fill patterns, brush sizes, paste modes, or with the clip board image
- Clipboards may be scanned directly, or any shape can be cut from the main image
- The software is compatible with all Amigas
- Supports Workbench 2 and ECS screen modes

Colour PowerScan now available

New v3.0 Scan software

PowerScan Colour v3.0	£239
PowerScan Greyscale v3.0	£115
PowerScan v3.0 software upgrade	£15

The Amiga can only display 16 greyscales

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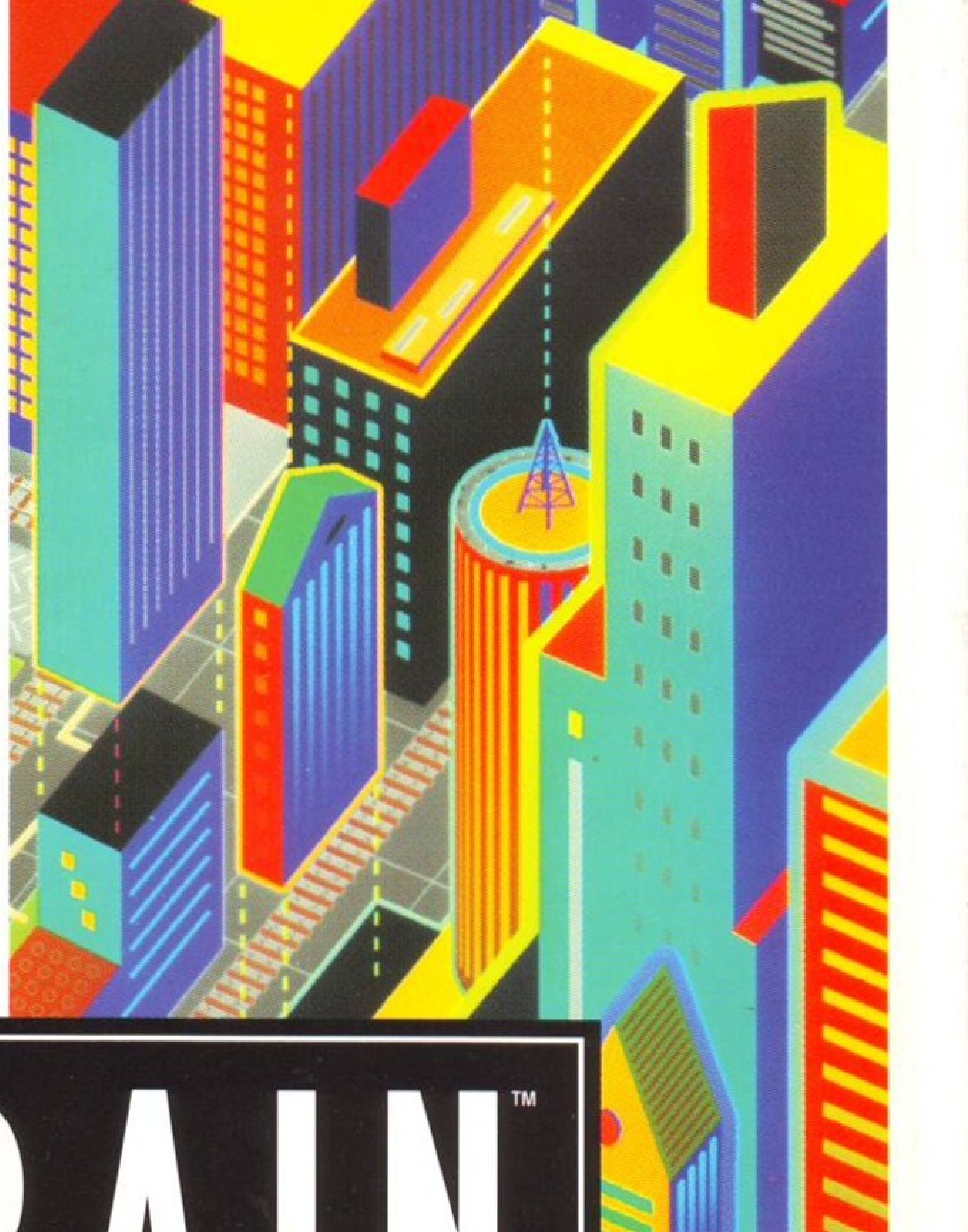
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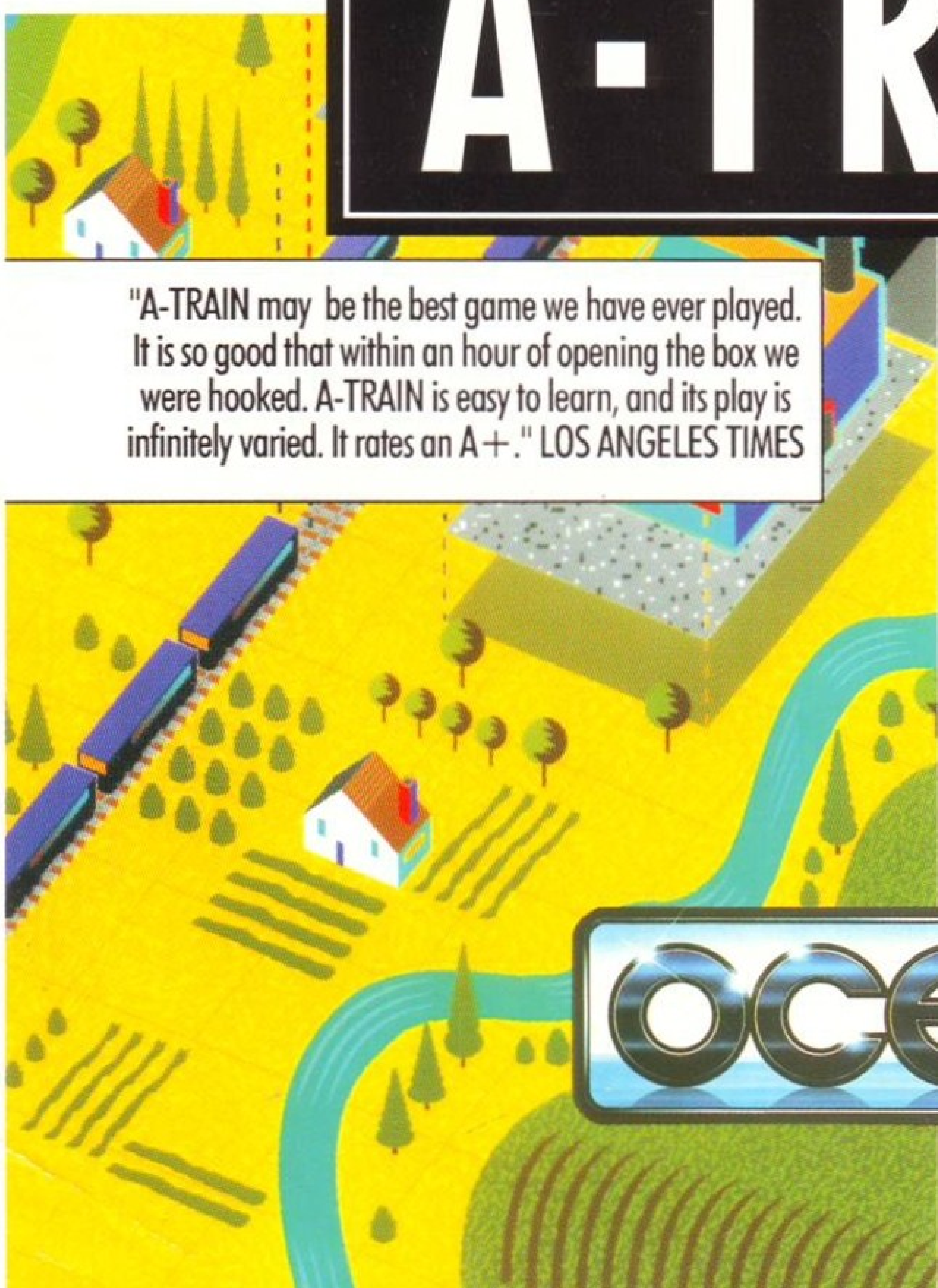
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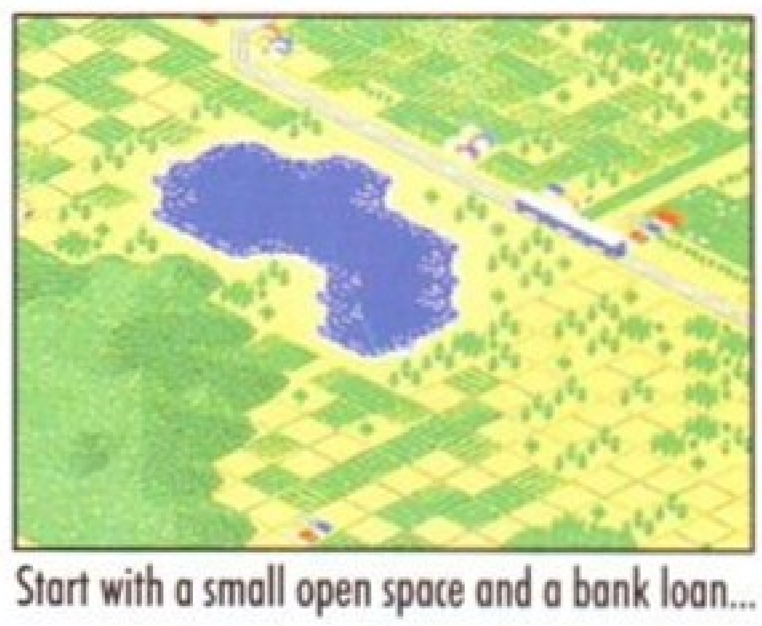
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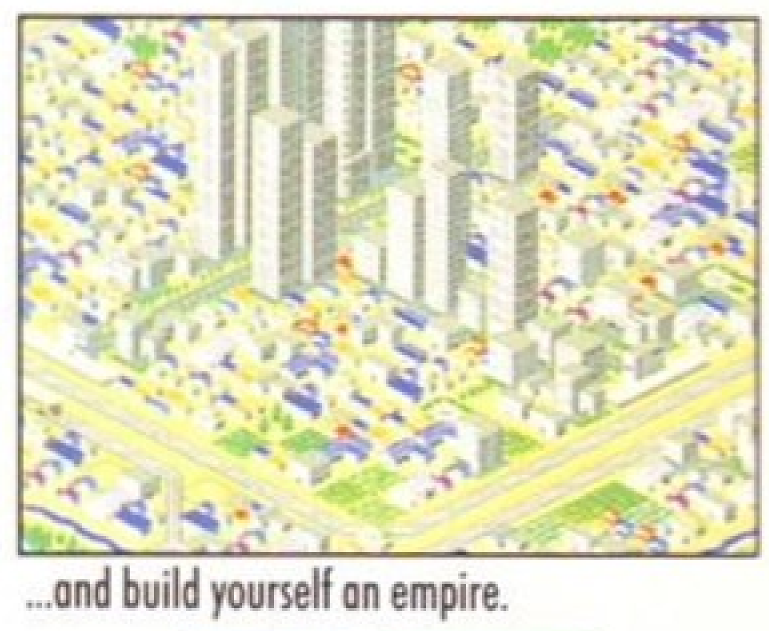
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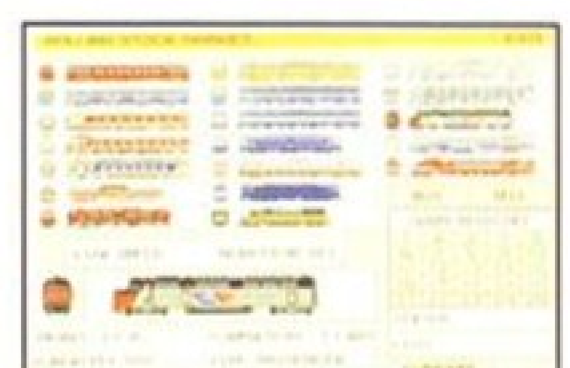
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